INUKAMI!

OMNIBUS COLLECTION 1

VOLUMES 1-3 AT ONE LOW PRICE!

story by
MAMIZU ARISAWA

art by
MARI MATSUZAWA

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story by:
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Mari Matsuzawa

character design:
Kanna Wakatsuki

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story by Mamizu Arisawa
art by Mari Matsuzawa
character design by Kanna Wakatsuki

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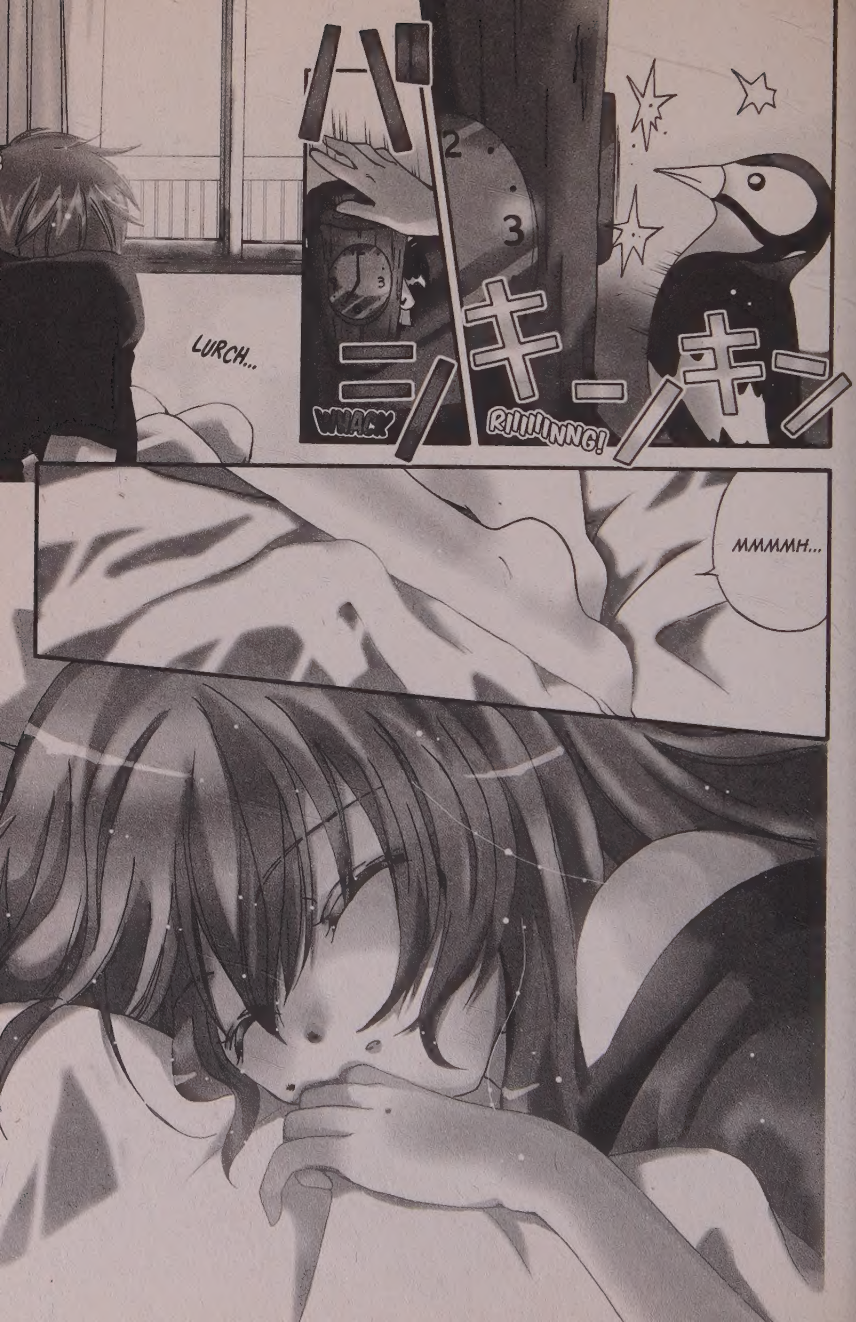
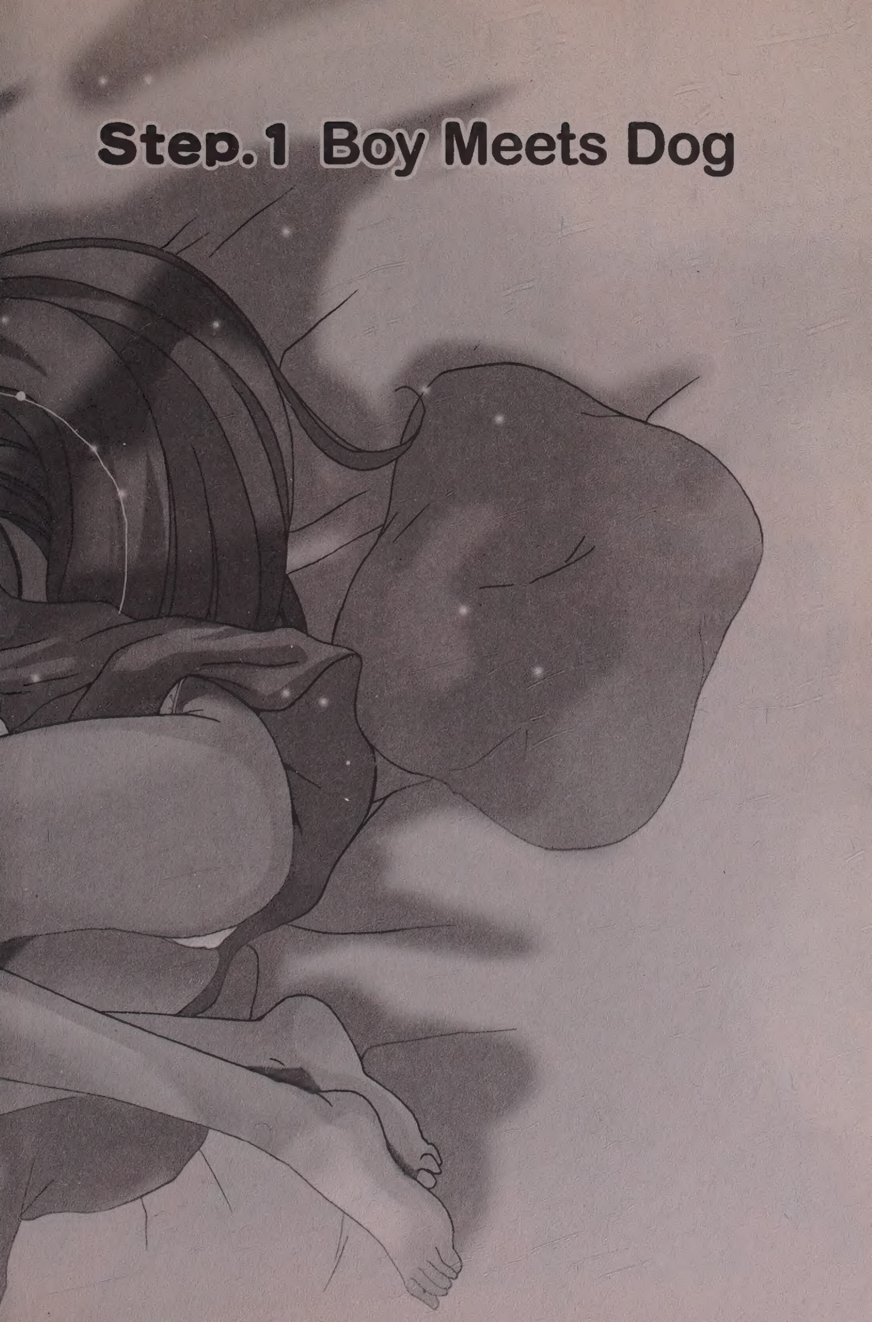
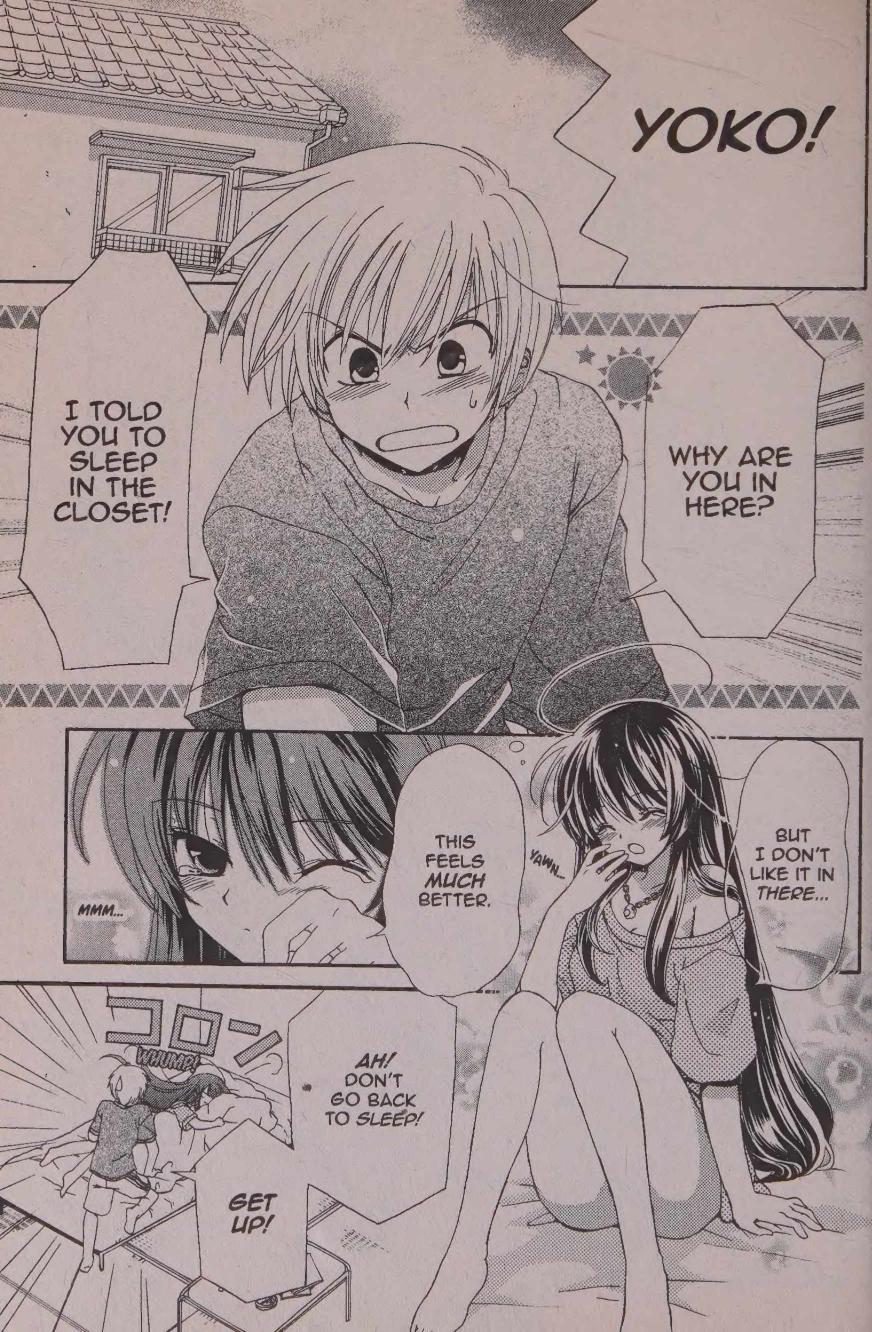
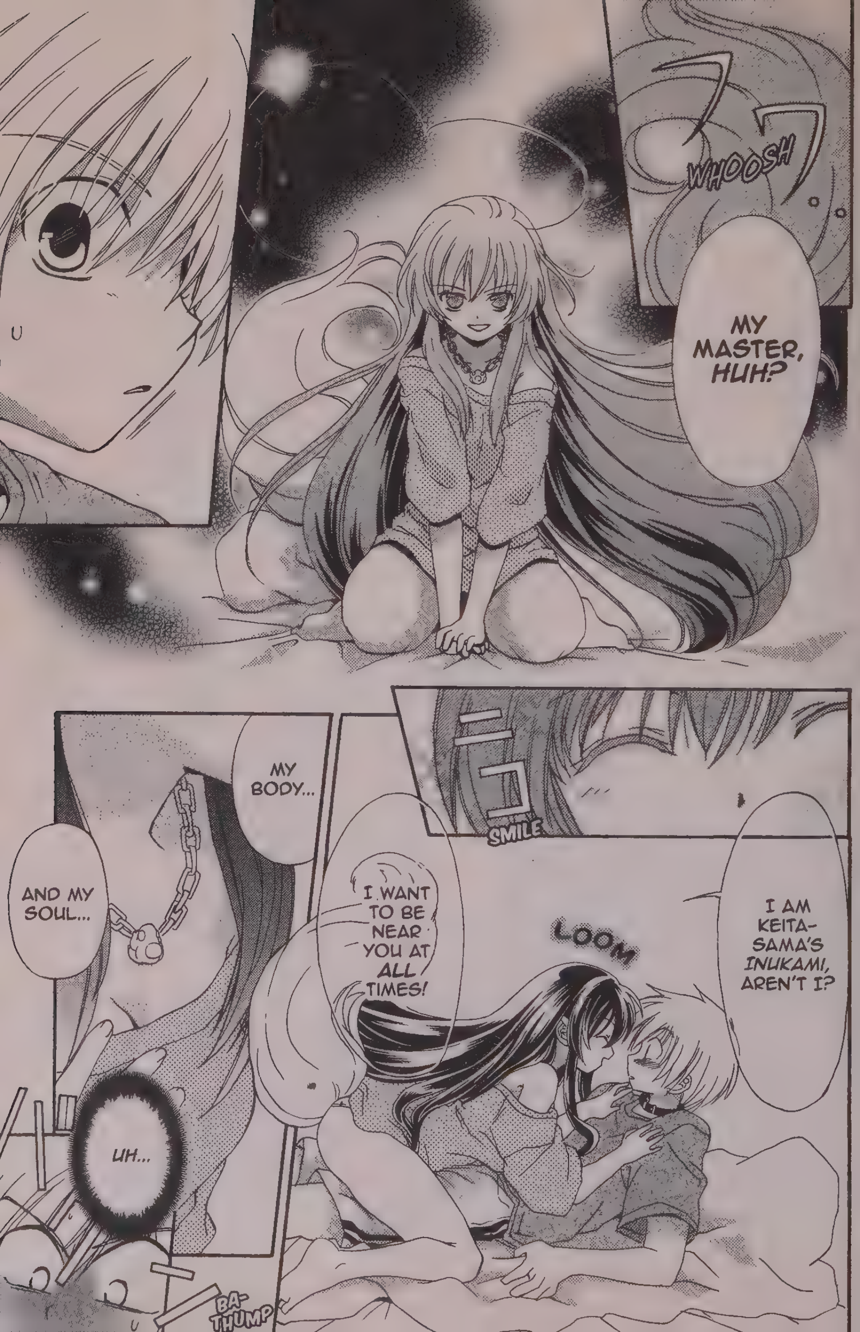
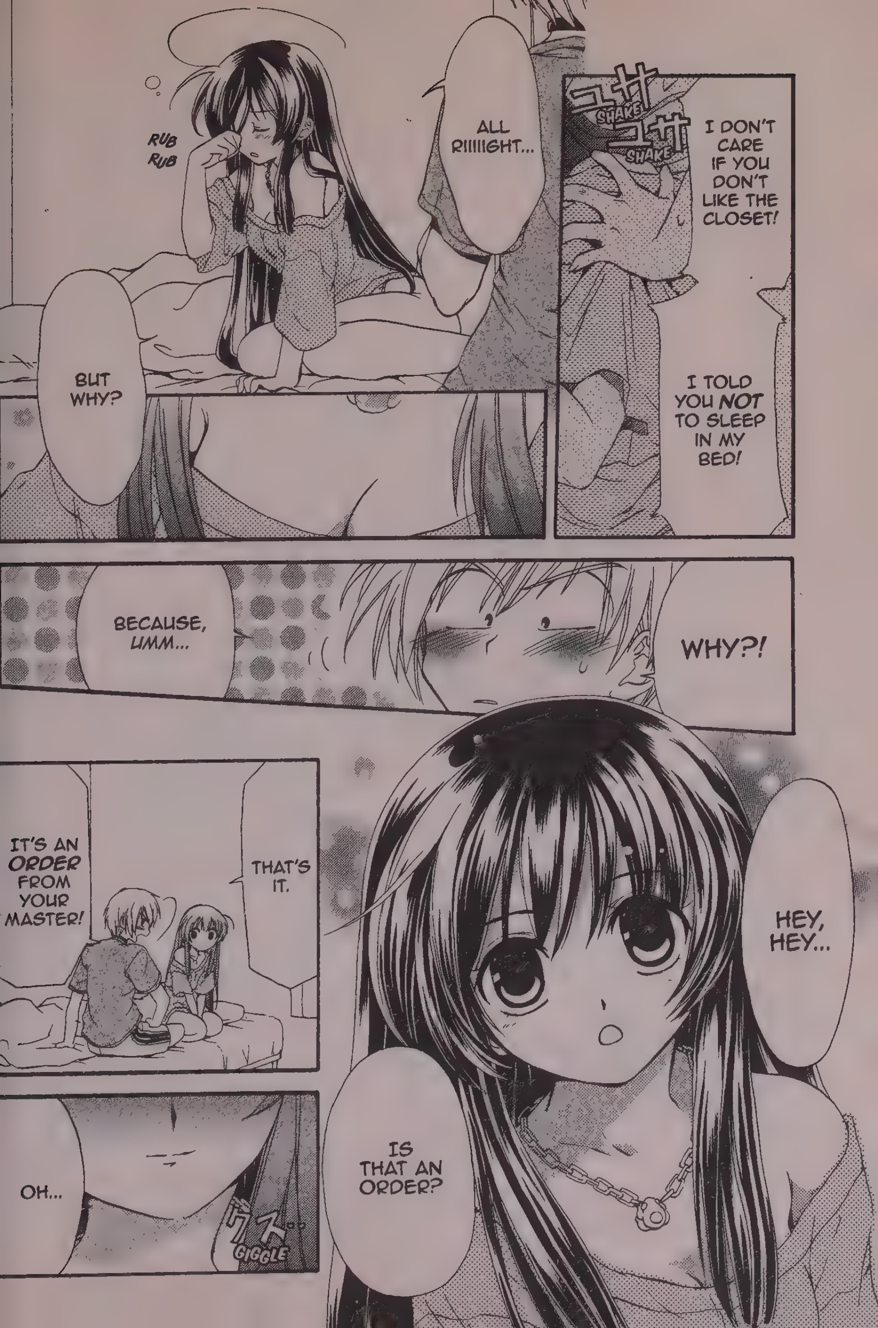

キーン
キーン
RIIIIINNG!
バーン
WHACK
LURCH...
MMMMH...

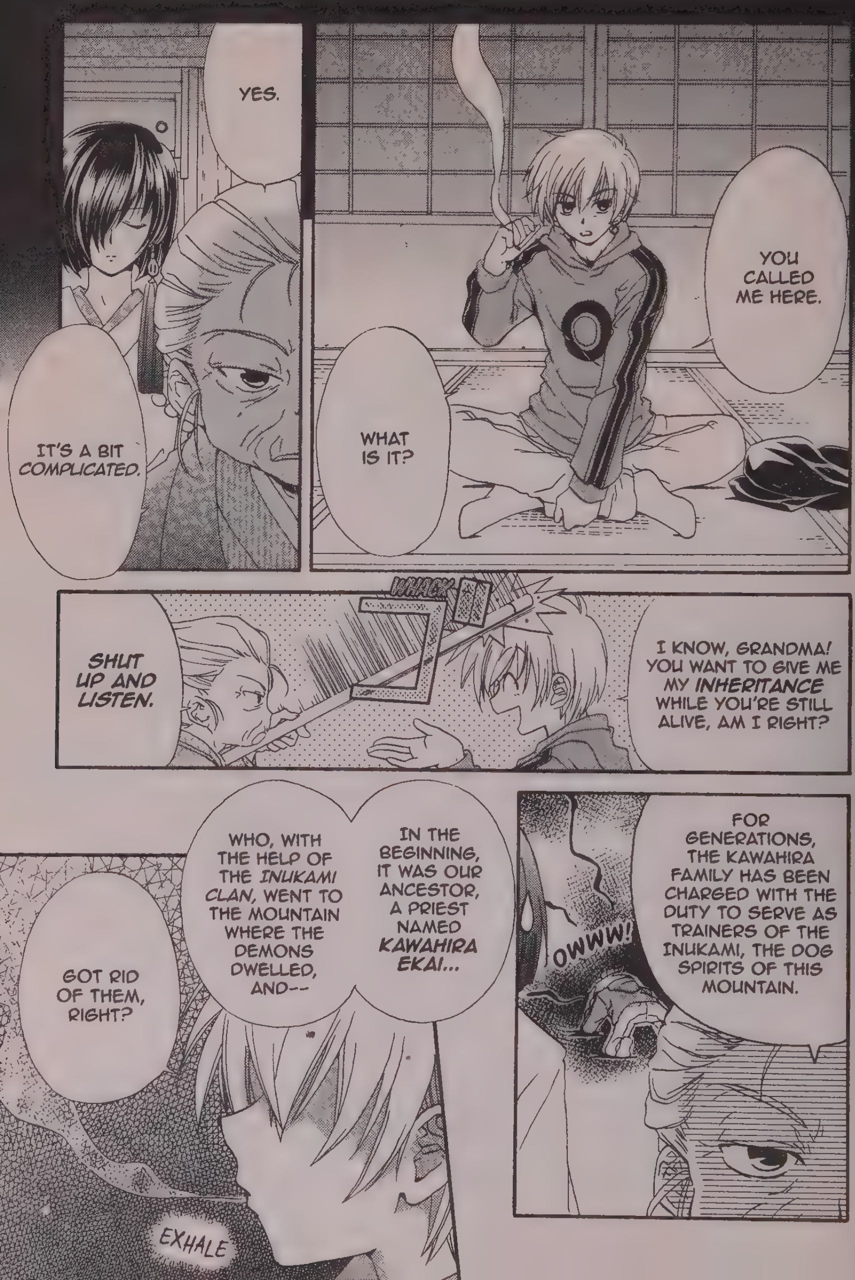
Step. 1 Boy Meets Dog

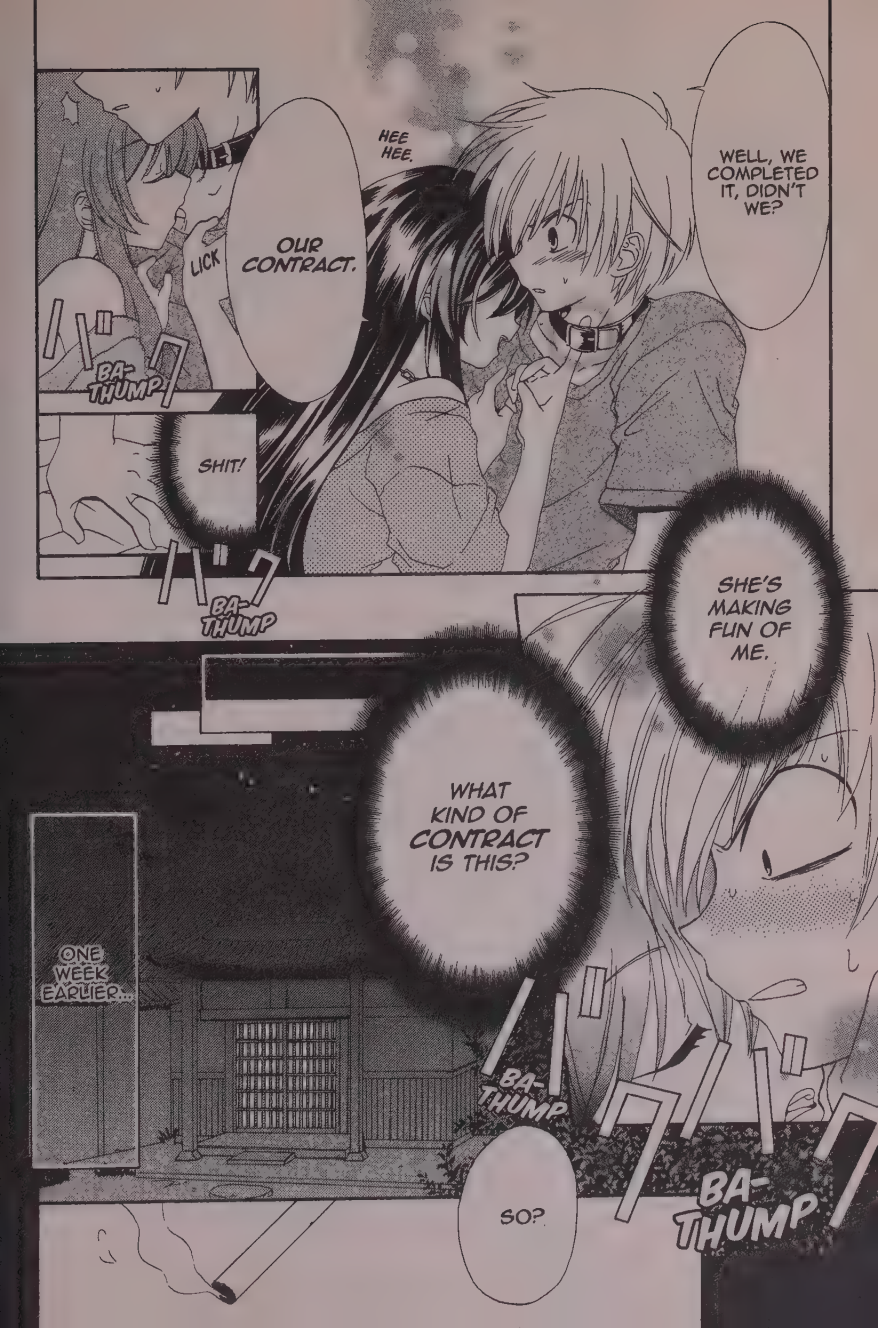


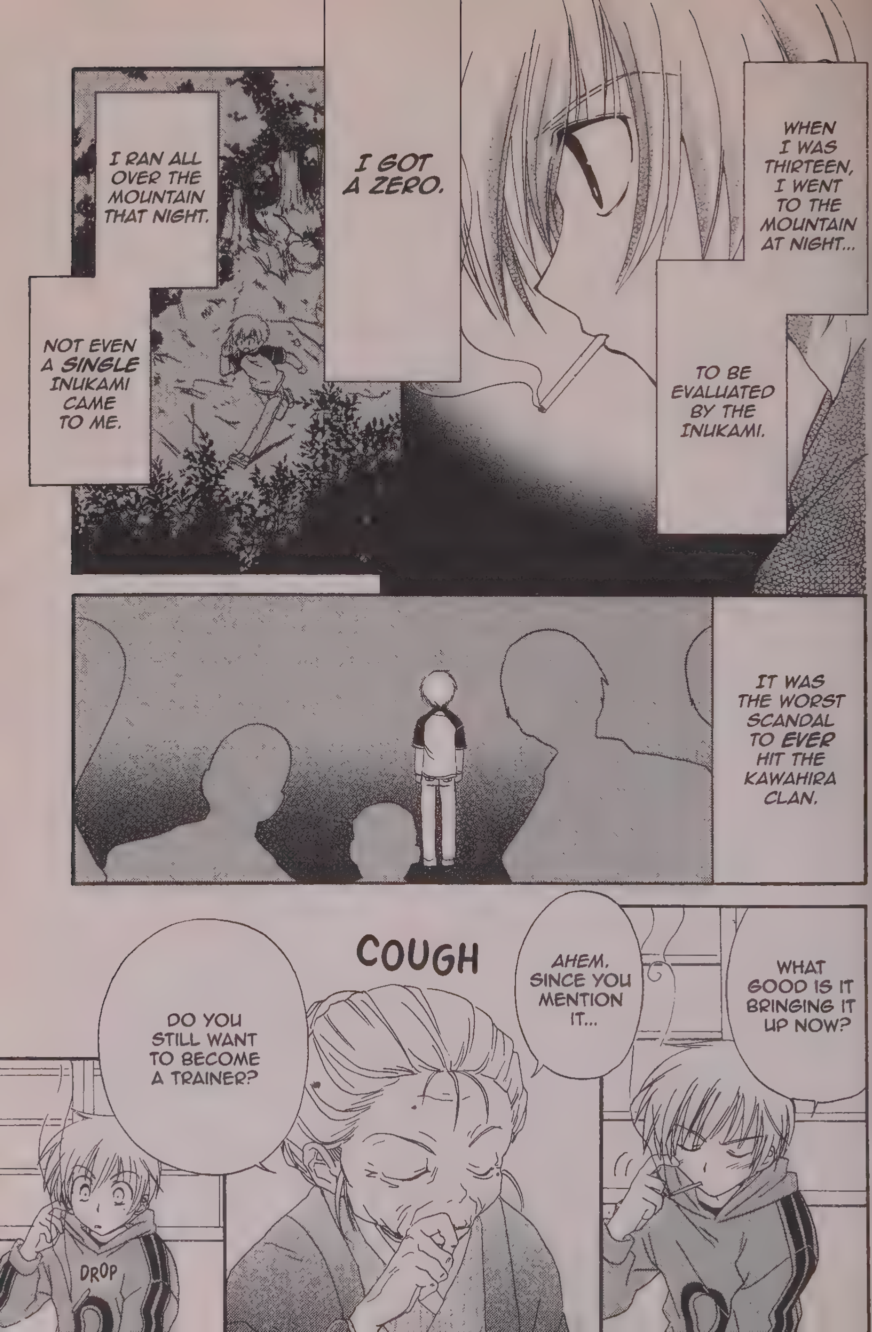

YOKO!
WHY ARE YOU IN HERE?
I TOLD YOU TO SLEEP IN THE CLOSET!
BUT I DON'T LIKE IT IN *THERE*...
YAWN..
THIS FEELS *MUCH* BETTER.
MMM...
コロン
WHUMP!
AH! DON'T GO BACK TO SLEEP!
GET UP!

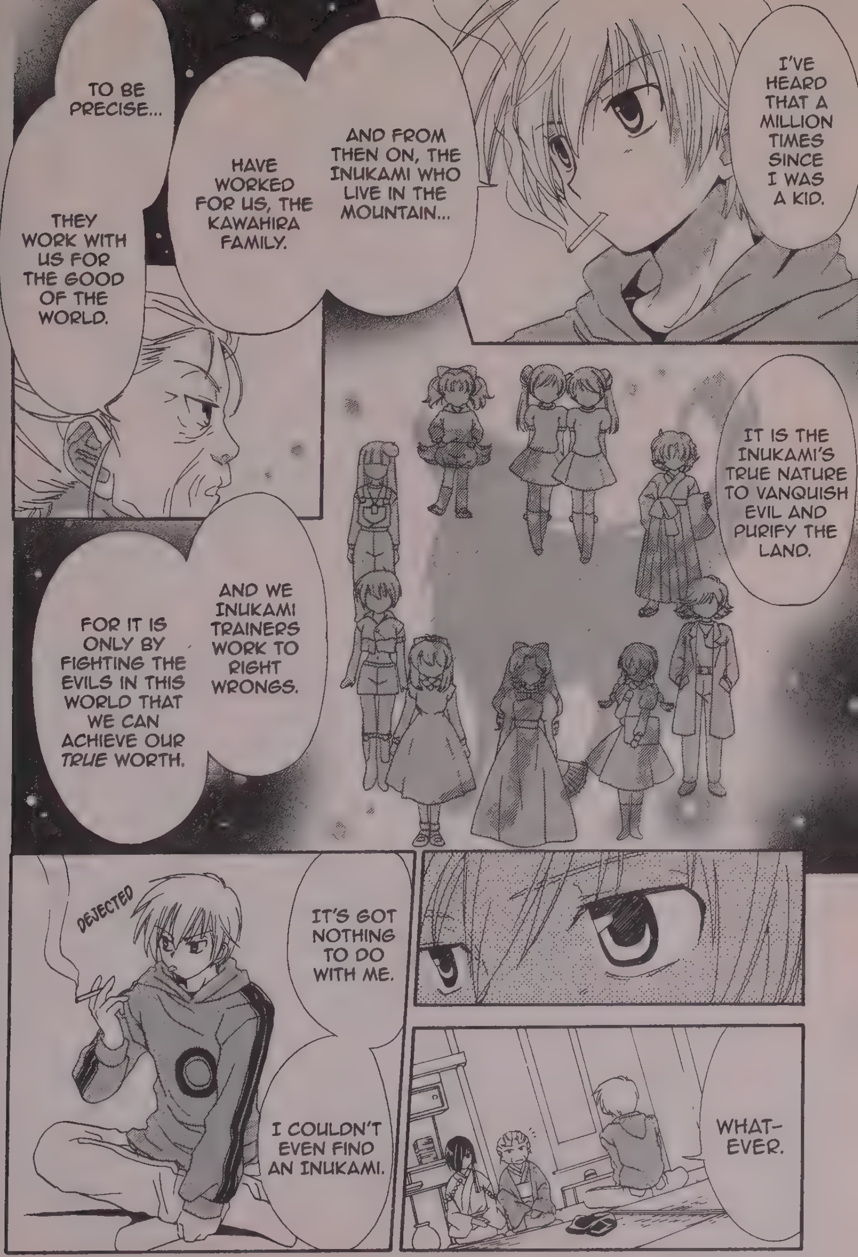

WHOOSH
MY MASTER, HUH?
SMILE
I AM KEITA-SAMA'S INUKAMI, AREN'T I?
LOOM
I WANT TO BE NEAR YOU AT ALL TIMES!
MY BODY...
AND MY SOUL...
UH...
BA-THUMP

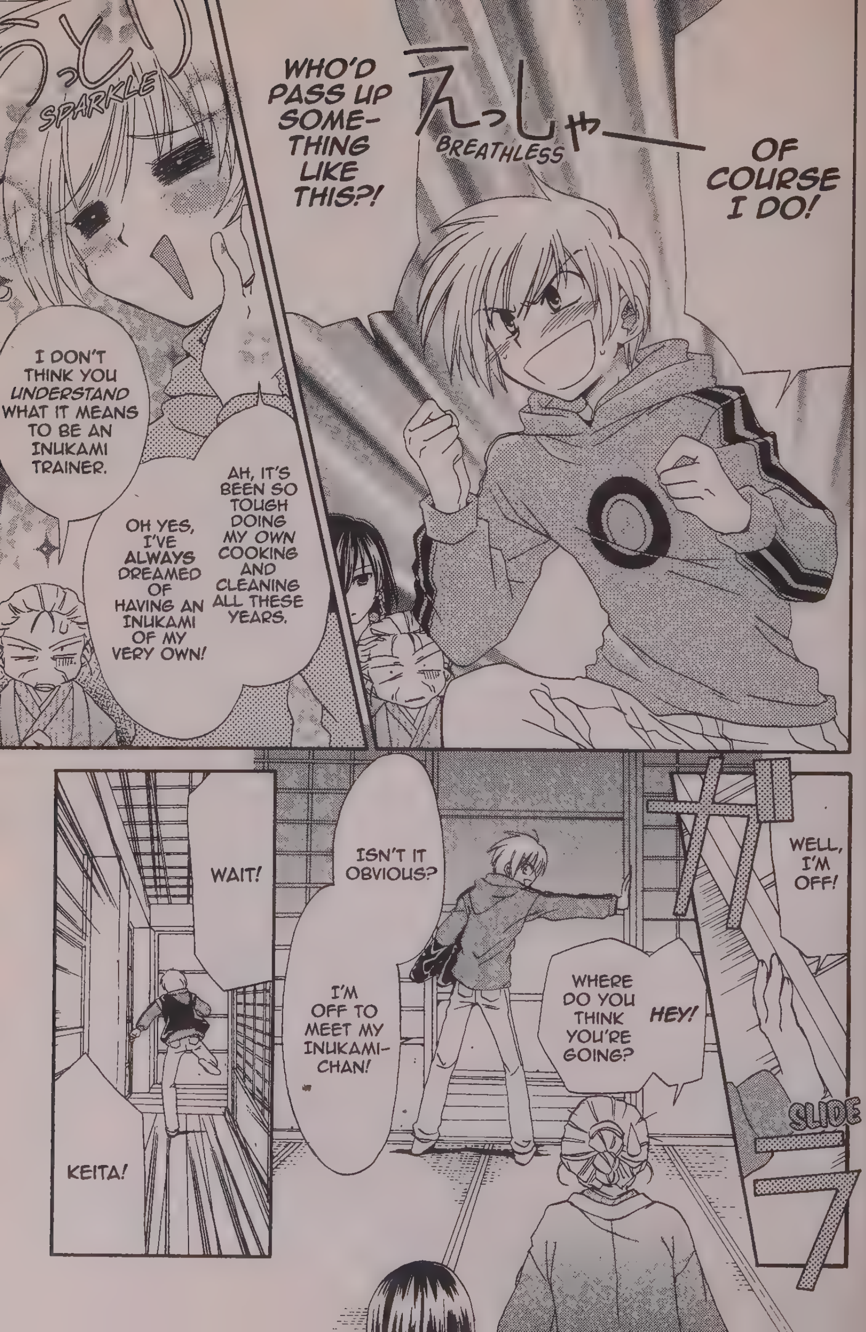

ユサ SHAKE ユサ SHAKE
I DON'T CARE IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE CLOSET!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO SLEEP IN MY BED!
ALL RIIIIGHT...
RUB RUB
BUT WHY?
WHY?!
BECAUSE, UMM...
HEY, HEY...
IS THAT AN ORDER?
THAT'S IT.
IT'S AN ORDER FROM YOUR MASTER!
OH...
ウフ... GIGGLE

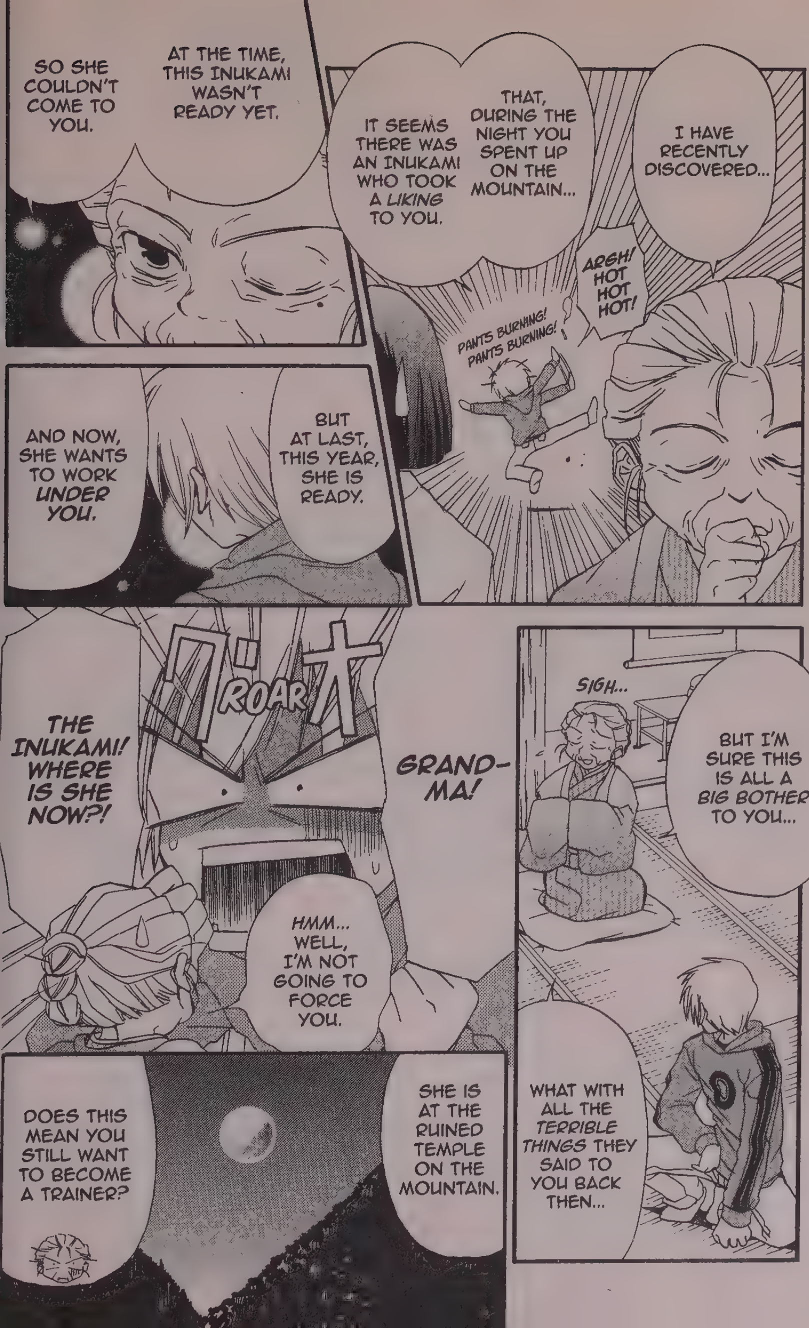

YOU CALLED ME HERE.
WHAT IS IT?
YES.
IT'S A BIT COMPLICATED.
I KNOW, GRANDMA! YOU WANT TO GIVE ME MY *INHERITANCE* WHILE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, AM I RIGHT?
WHACK
SHUT UP AND LISTEN.
OWWW!
FOR GENERATIONS, THE KAWAHIRA FAMILY HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH THE DUTY TO SERVE AS TRAINERS OF THE INUKAMI, THE DOG SPIRITS OF THIS MOUNTAIN.
IN THE BEGINNING, IT WAS OUR ANCESTOR, A PRIEST NAMED *KAWAHIRA EKAI...*
WHO, WITH THE HELP OF THE *INUKAMI CLAN*, WENT TO THE MOUNTAIN WHERE THE DEMONS DWELLED, AND--
GOT RID OF THEM, RIGHT?
EXHALE

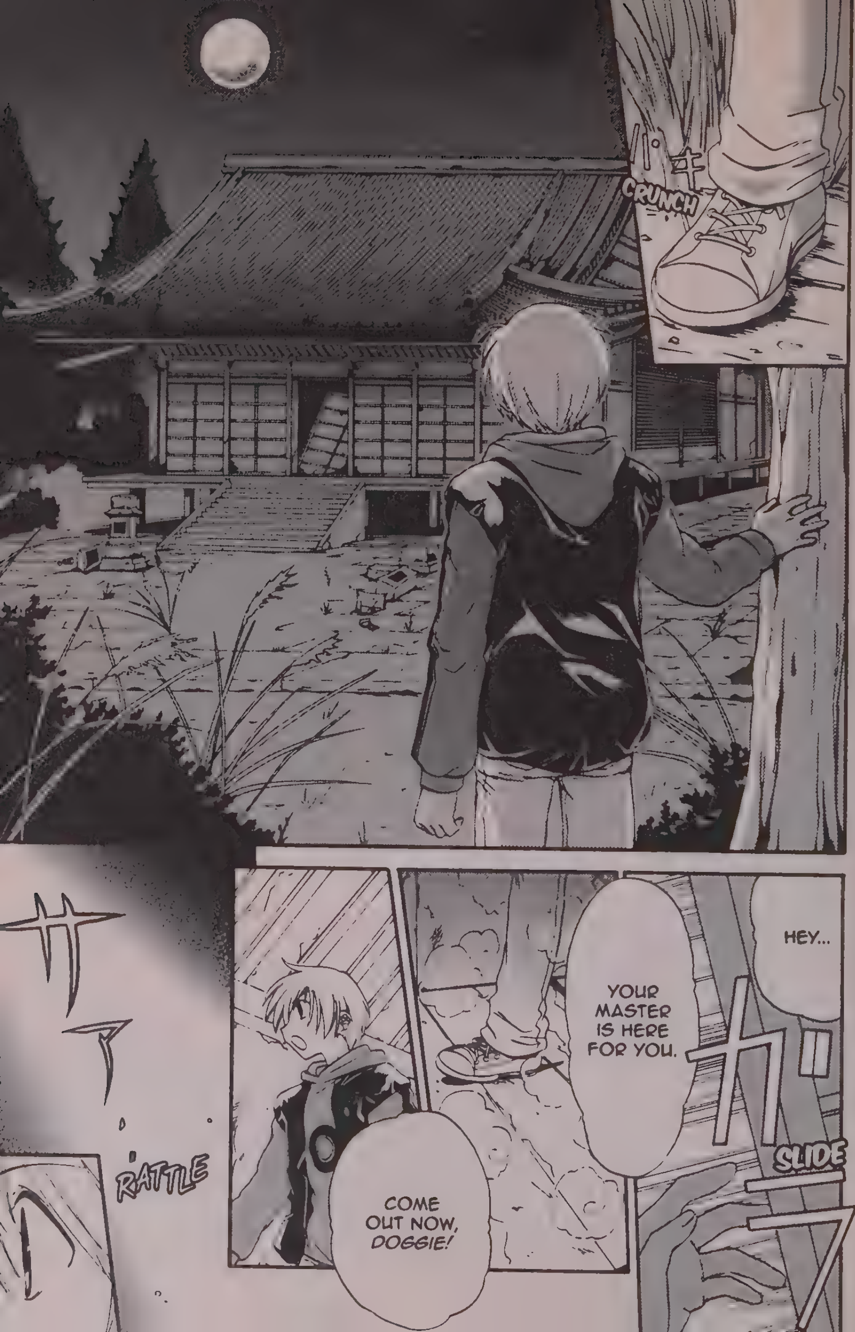

WELL, WE COMPLETED IT, DIDN'T WE?
HEE HEE.
OUR CONTRACT.
LICK
BA-THUMP
SHIT!
BA-THUMP
SHE'S MAKING FUN OF ME.
WHAT KIND OF CONTRACT IS THIS?
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
ONE WEEK EARLIER...
SO?

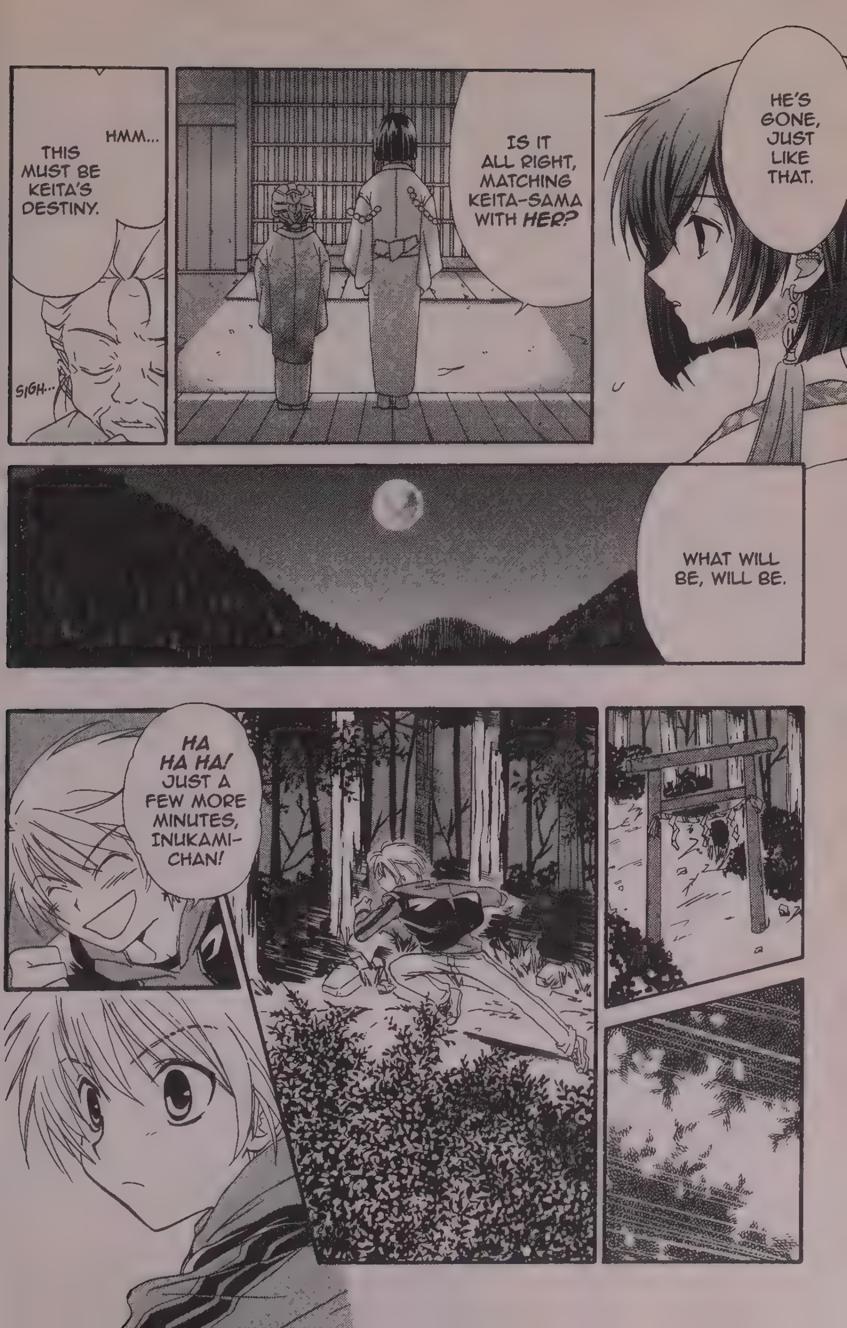

WHEN I WAS THIRTEEN, I WENT TO THE MOUNTAIN AT NIGHT...
TO BE EVALUATED BY THE INUKAMI.
I GOT A ZERO.
I RAN ALL OVER THE MOUNTAIN THAT NIGHT.
NOT EVEN A **SINGLE** INUKAMI CAME TO ME.
IT WAS THE WORST SCANDAL TO **EVER** HIT THE KAWAHIRA CLAN.
WHAT GOOD IS IT BRINGING IT UP NOW?
AHEM, SINCE YOU MENTION IT...
COUGH
DO YOU STILL WANT TO BECOME A TRAINER?
DROP

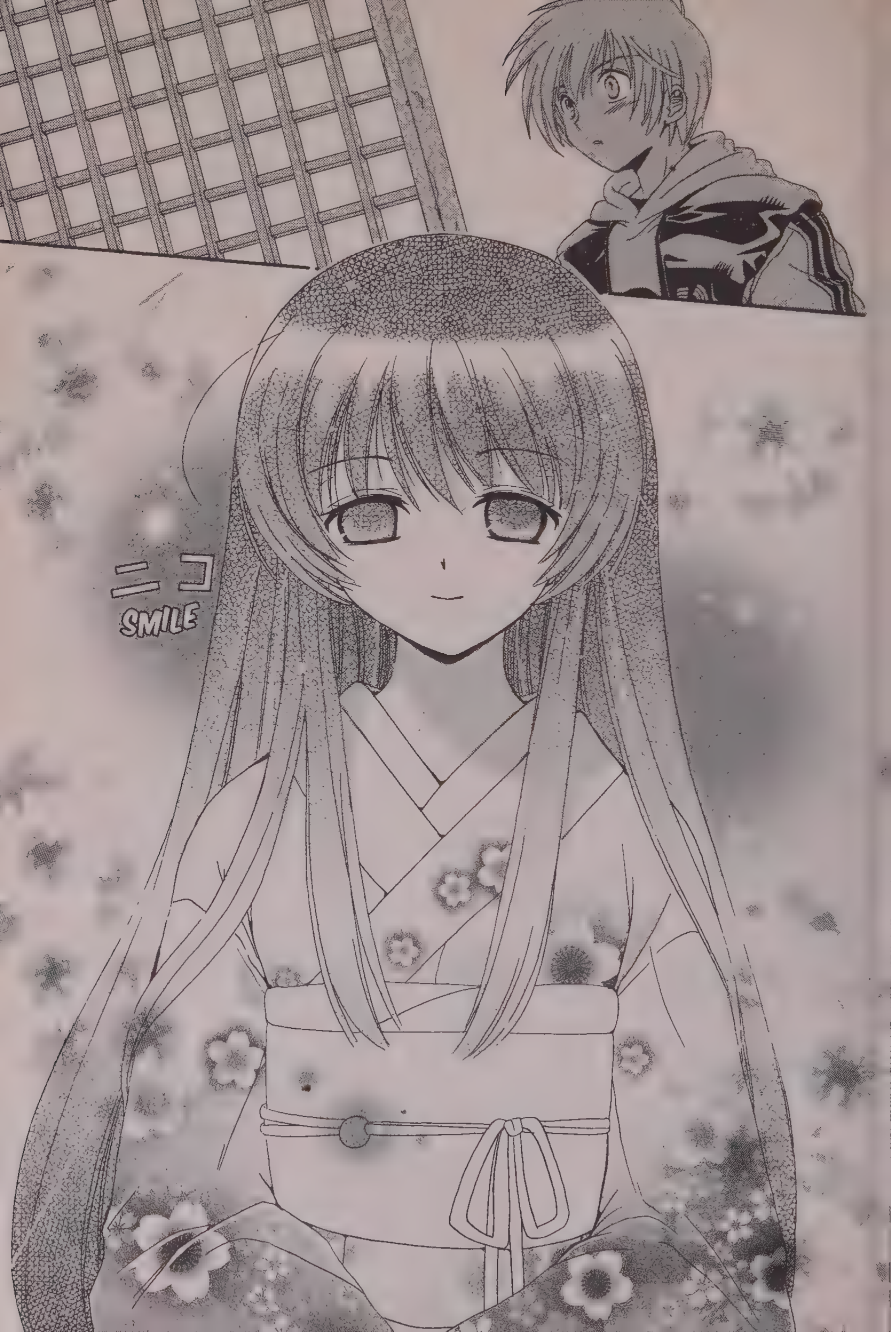

I'VE HEARD THAT A MILLION TIMES SINCE I WAS A KID.
AND FROM THEN ON, THE INUKAMI WHO LIVE IN THE MOUNTAIN...
HAVE WORKED FOR US, THE KAWAHIRA FAMILY.
TO BE PRECISE...
THEY WORK WITH US FOR THE GOOD OF THE WORLD.
IT IS THE INUKAMI'S TRUE NATURE TO VANQUISH EVIL AND PURIFY THE LAND.
AND WE INUKAMI TRAINERS WORK TO RIGHT WRONGS.
FOR IT IS ONLY BY FIGHTING THE EVILS IN THIS WORLD THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE OUR *TRUE* WORTH.
WHATEVER.
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
DEJECTED
I COULDN'T EVEN FIND AN INUKAMI.

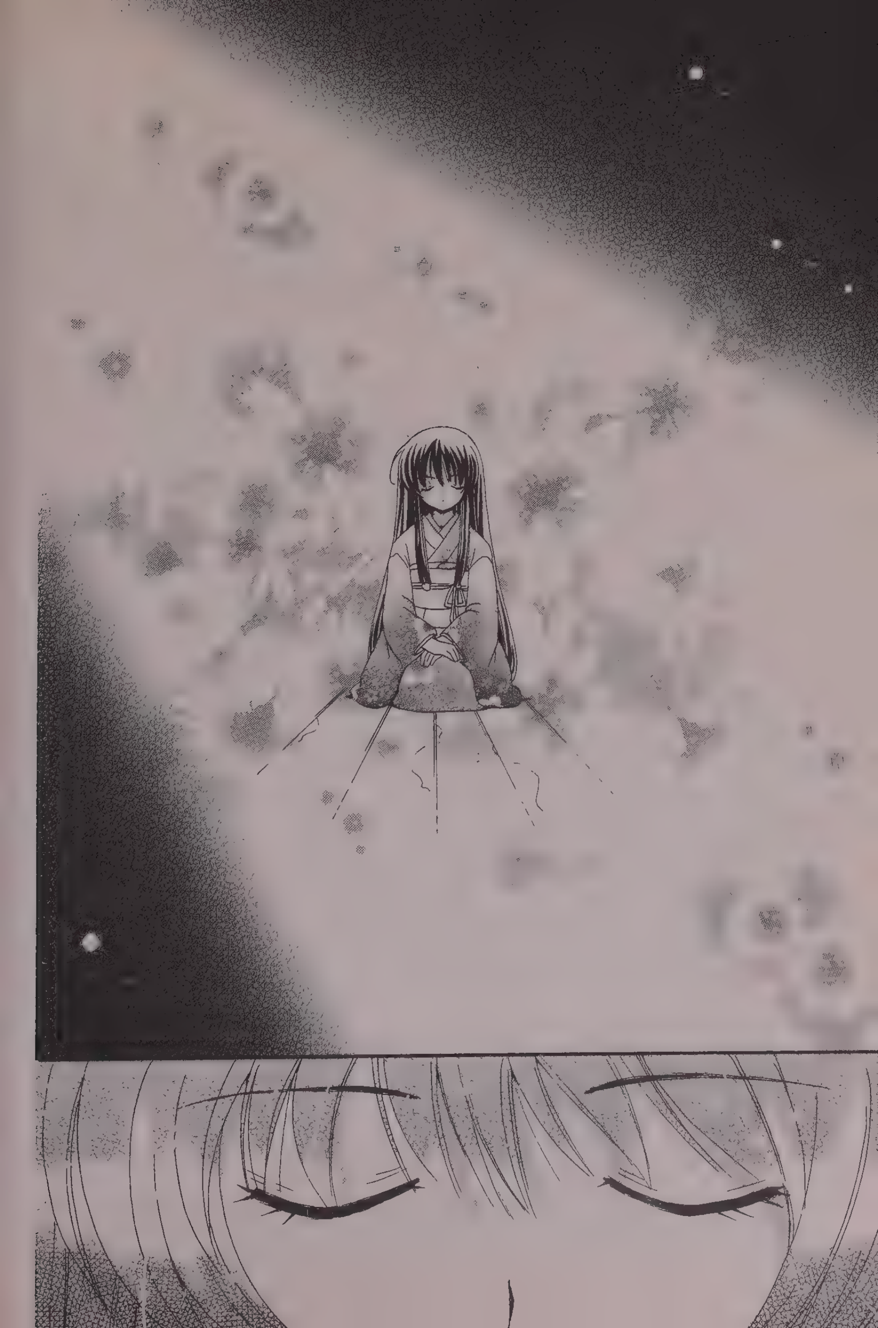

OF COURSE I DO!
えっしゃー
BREATHLESS
WHO'D PASS UP SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!
SPARKLE
AH, IT'S BEEN SO TOUGH DOING MY OWN COOKING AND CLEANING ALL THESE YEARS.
OH YES, I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF HAVING AN INUKAMI OF MY VERY OWN!
I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN INUKAMI TRAINER.
ガラ
WELL, I'M OFF!
SLIDE
HEY!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
I'M OFF TO MEET MY INUKAMI-CHAN!
WAIT!
KEITA!

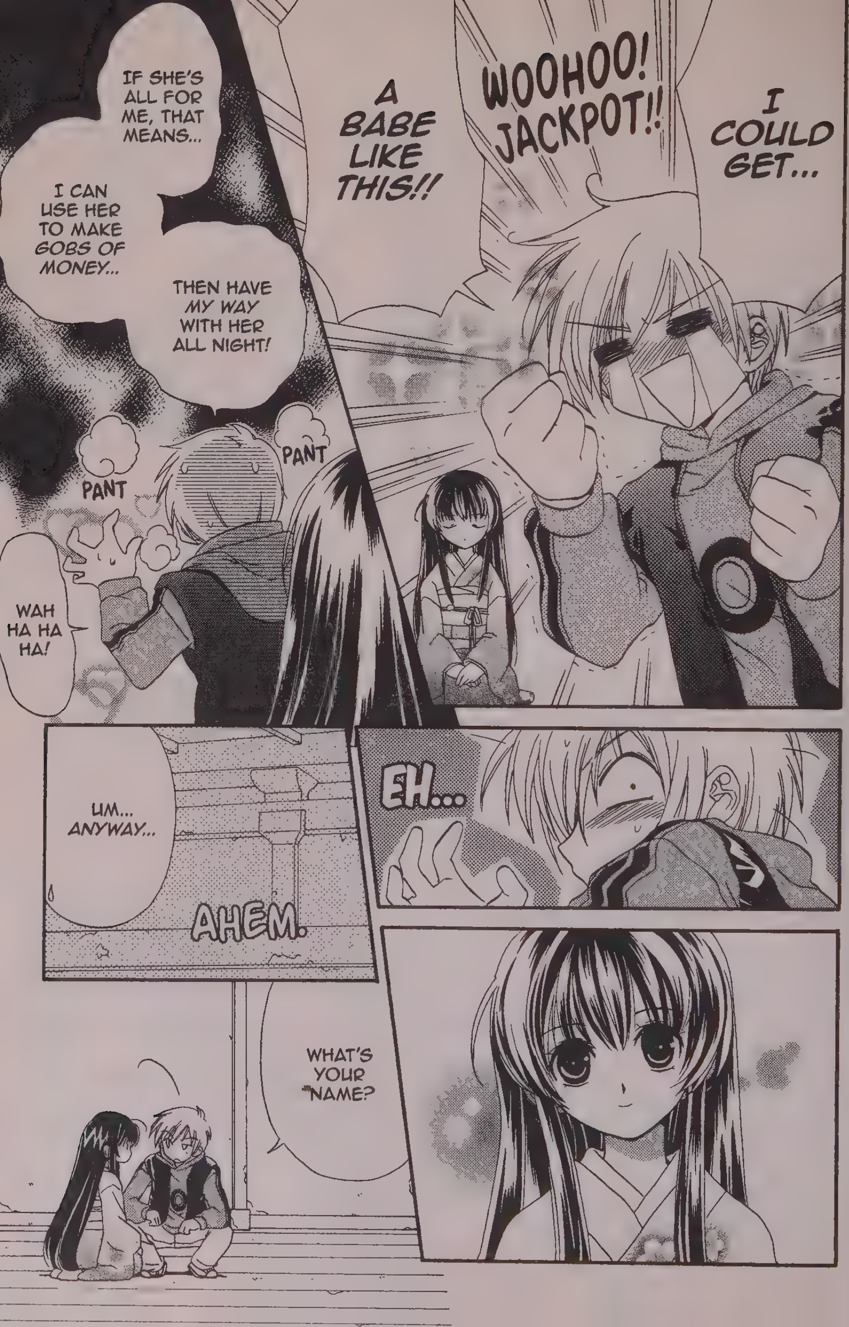

I HAVE RECENTLY DISCOVERED...
THAT, DURING THE NIGHT YOU SPENT UP ON THE MOUNTAIN...
IT SEEMS THERE WAS AN INUKAMI WHO TOOK A *LIKING* TO YOU.
ARGH! HOT HOT HOT!
PANTS BURNING! PANTS BURNING!
AT THE TIME, THIS INUKAMI WASN'T READY YET.
SO SHE COULDN'T COME TO YOU.
BUT AT LAST, THIS YEAR, SHE IS READY.
AND NOW, SHE WANTS TO WORK *UNDER* YOU.
SIGH...
BUT I'M SURE THIS IS ALL A *BIG BOTHER* TO YOU...
WHAT WITH ALL THE *TERRIBLE* THINGS THEY SAID TO YOU BACK THEN...
GRAND-MA!
ROAR
THE INUKAMI! WHERE IS SHE NOW?!
HMM... WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO FORCE YOU.
SHE IS AT THE RUINED TEMPLE ON THE MOUNTAIN.
DOES THIS MEAN YOU STILL WANT TO BECOME A TRAINER?

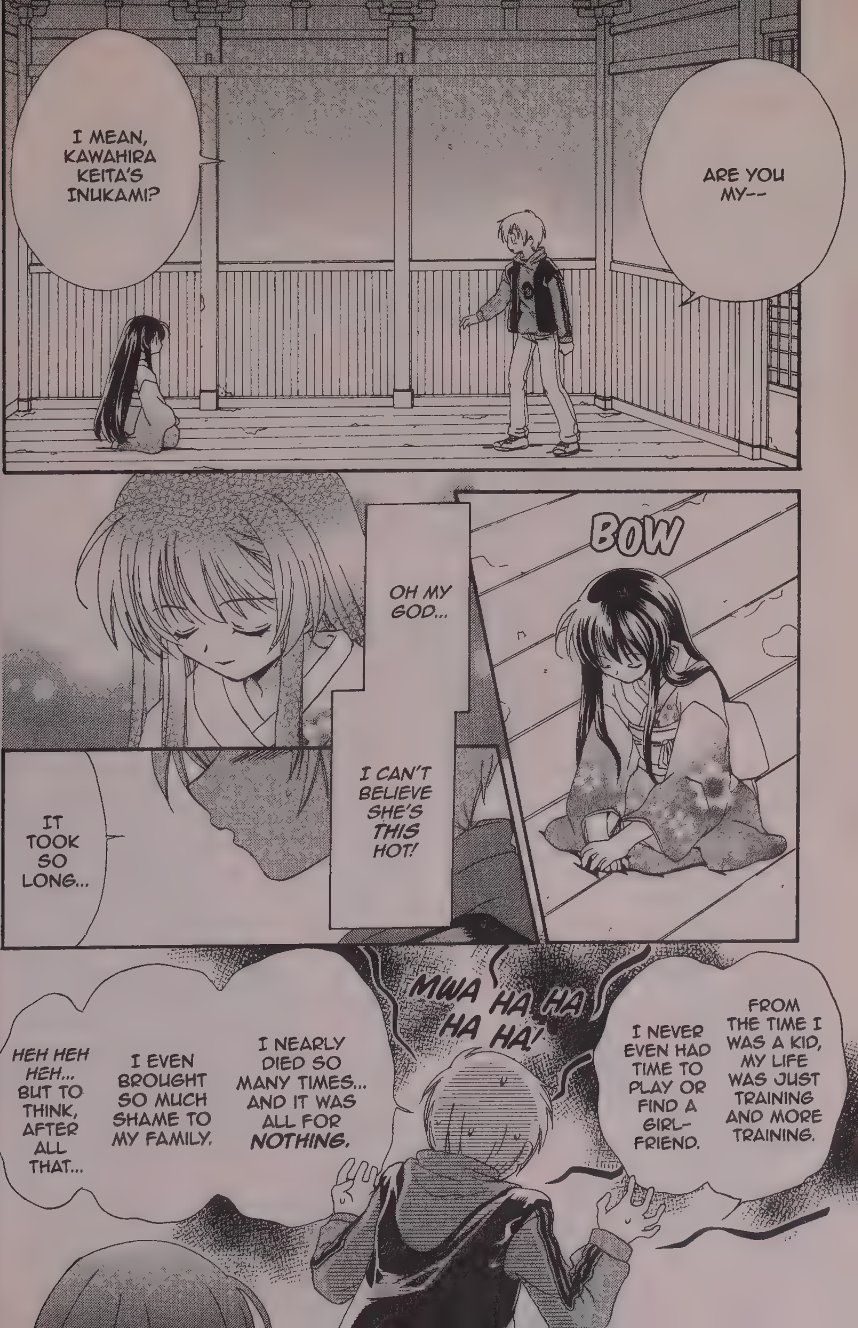

CRUNCH
HEY...
SLIDE
YOUR MASTER IS HERE FOR YOU.
COME OUT NOW, DOGGIE!
RATTLE

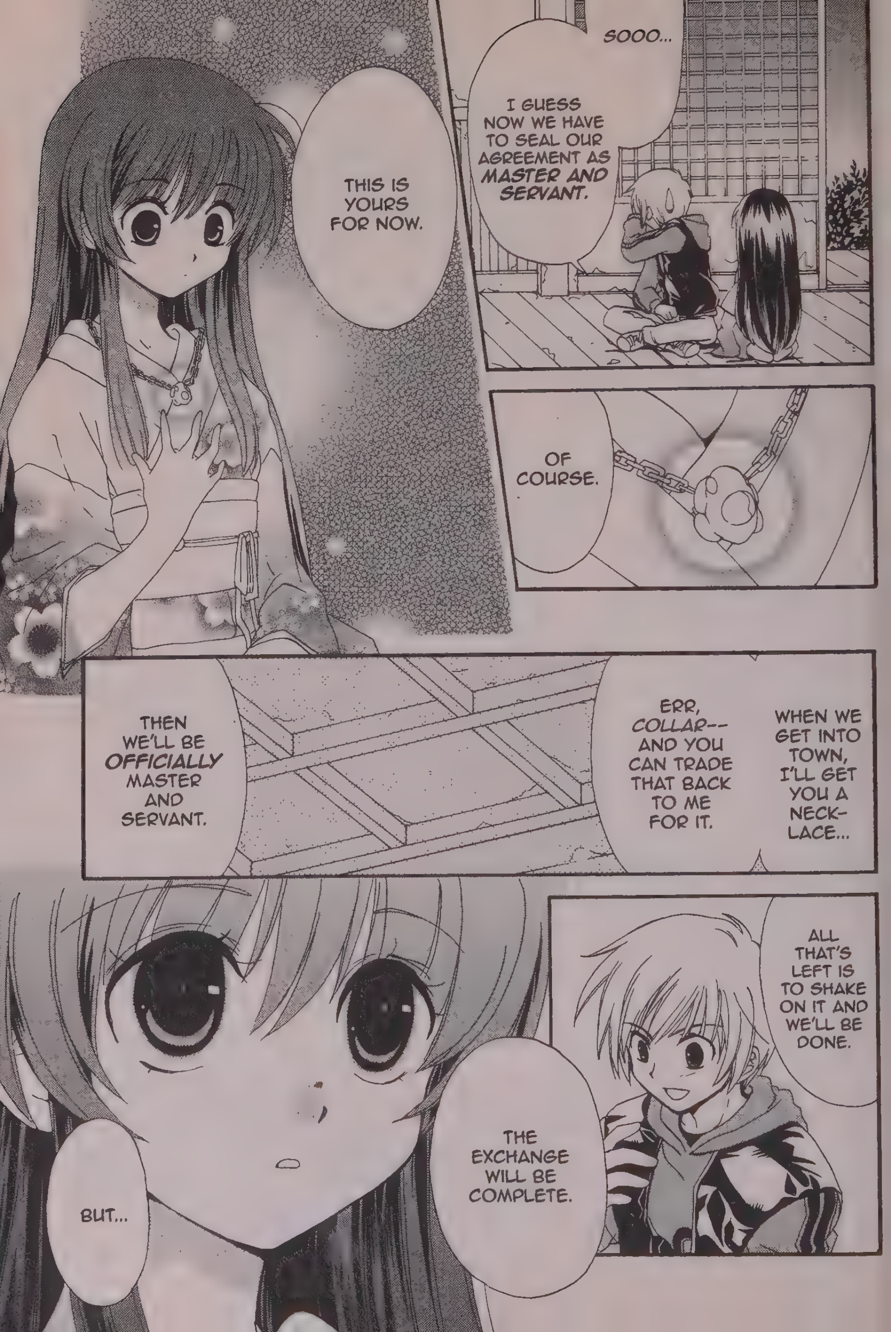

HE'S GONE, JUST LIKE THAT.
IS IT ALL RIGHT, MATCHING KEITA-SAMA WITH *HER*?
HMM...
THIS MUST BE KEITA'S DESTINY.
SIGH...
WHAT WILL BE, WILL BE.
HA HA HA! JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES, INUKAMI-CHAN!

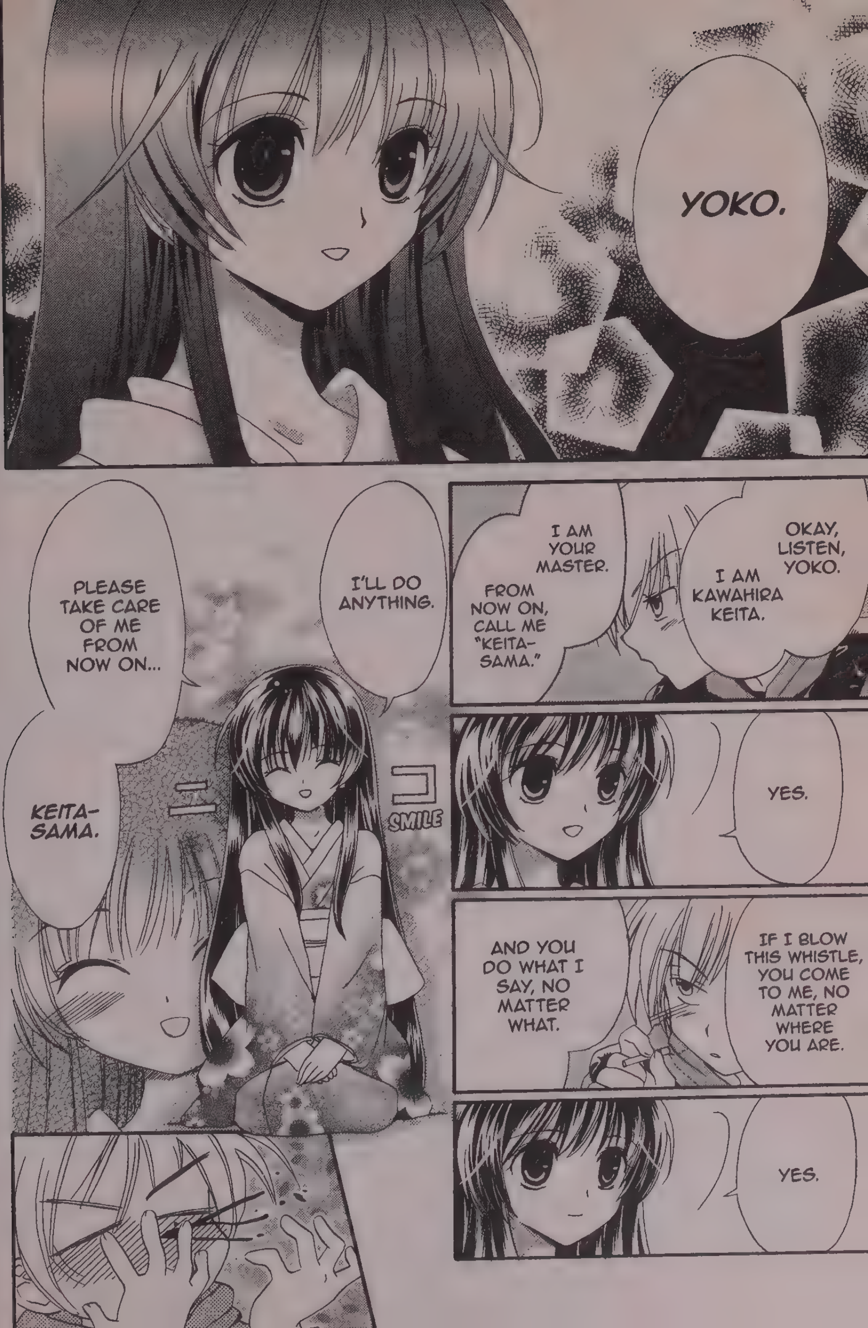

ニコ
SMILE

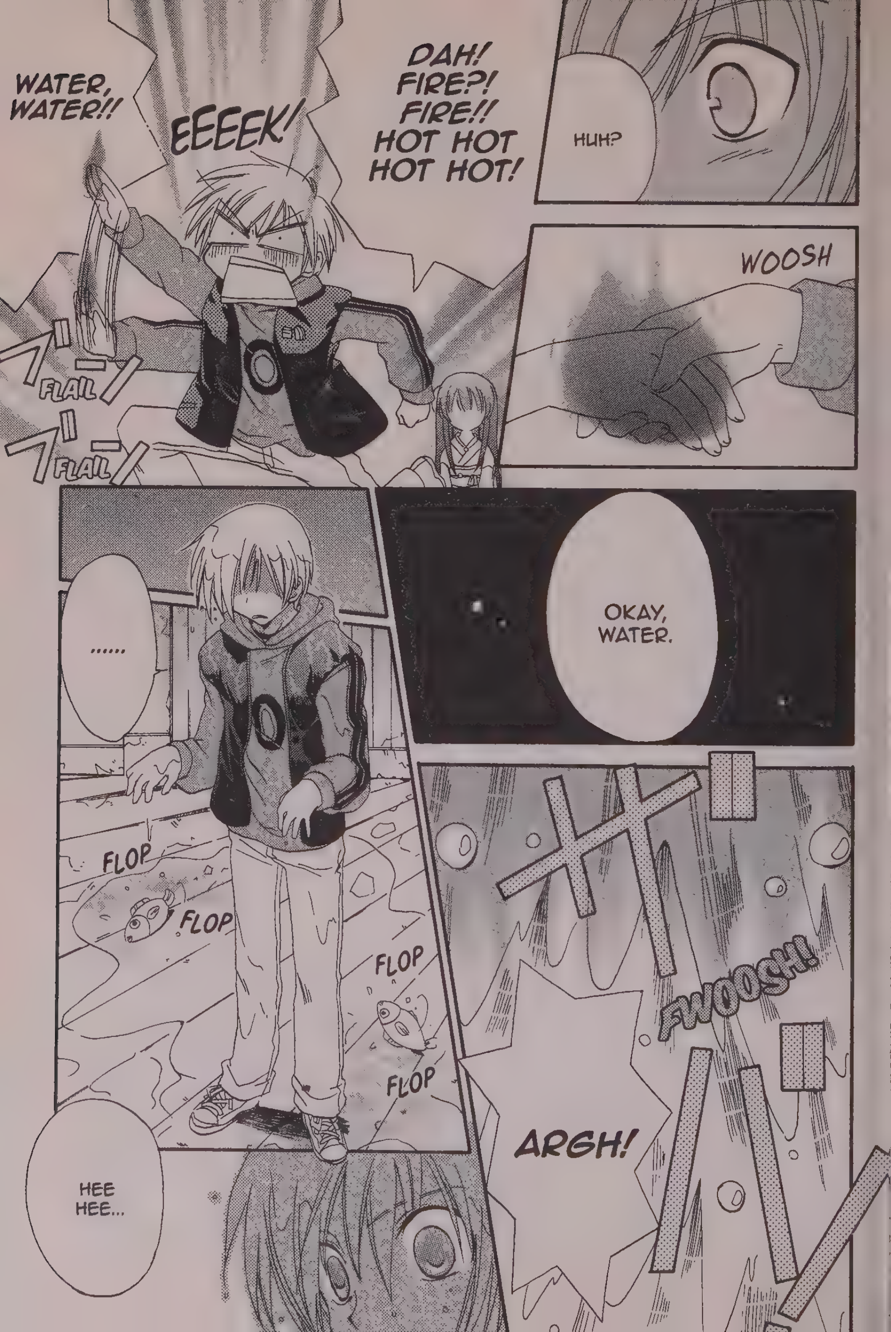


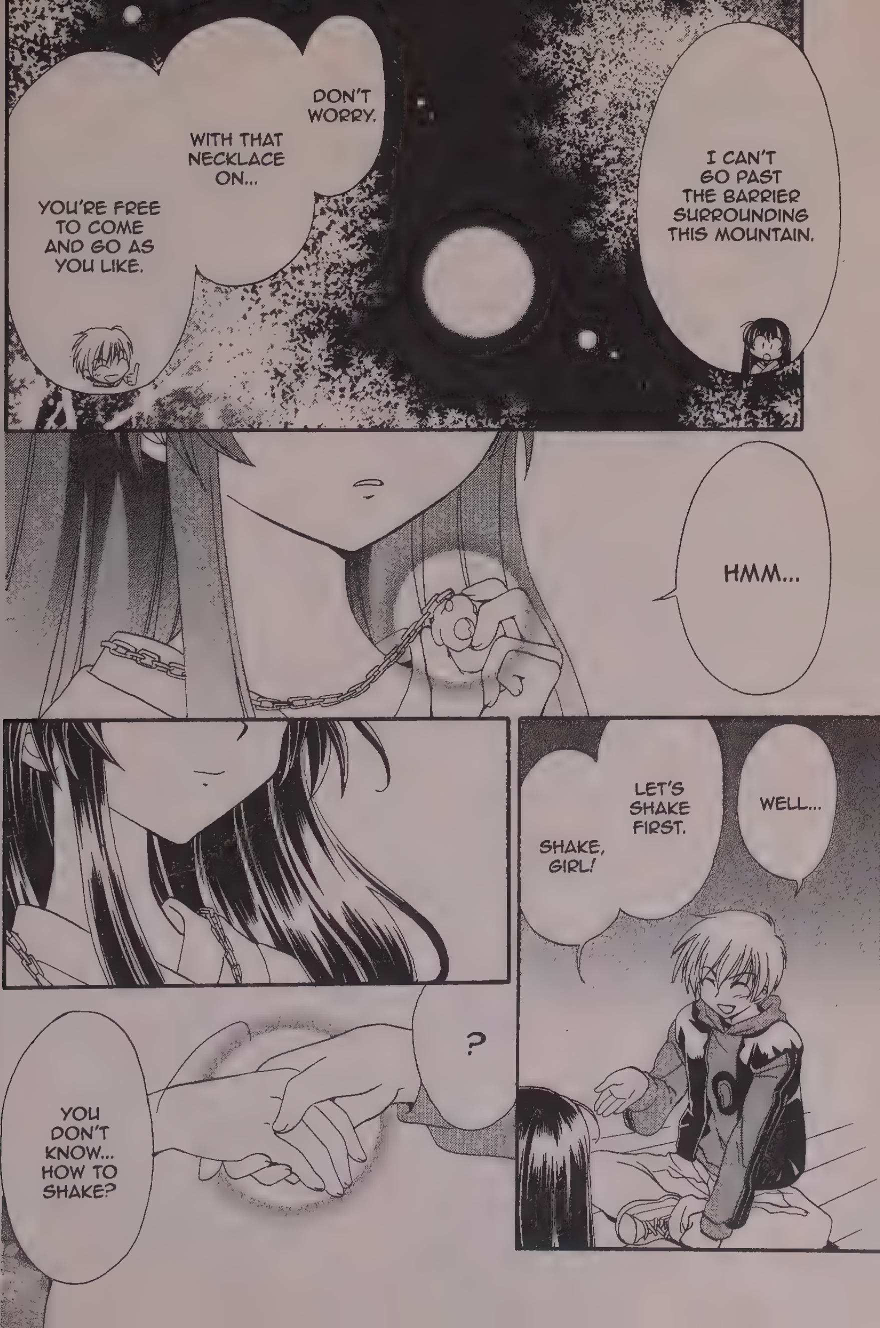

I COULD GET...
WOOHOO! JACKPOT!!
A BABE LIKE THIS!!
IF SHE'S ALL FOR ME, THAT MEANS...
I CAN USE HER TO MAKE GOBS OF MONEY...
THEN HAVE *MY WAY* WITH HER ALL NIGHT!
PANT
PANT
WAH HA HA HA!
EH...
UM... ANYWAY...
AHEM.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

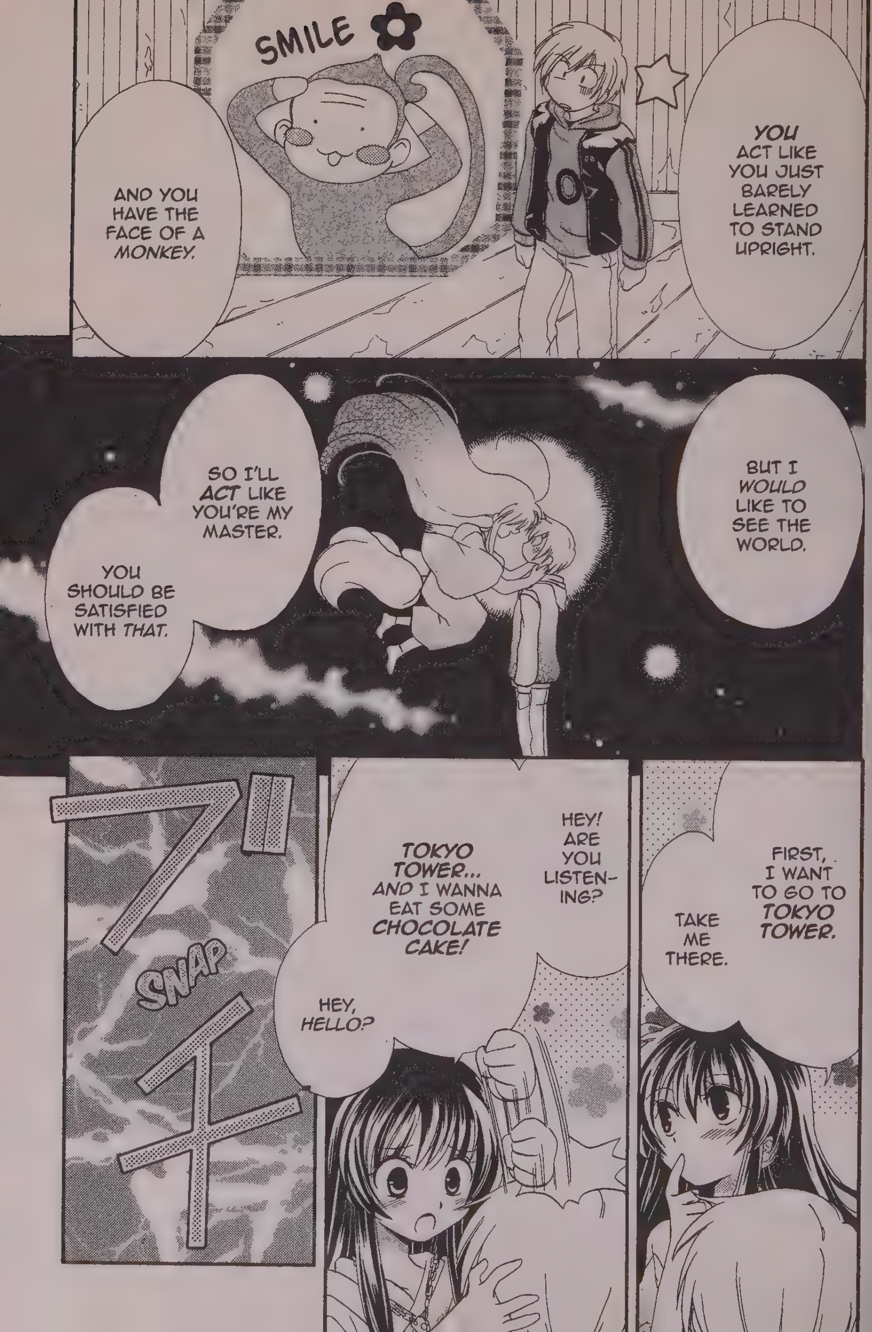

ARE YOU MY--
I MEAN, KAWAHIRA KEITA'S INUKAMI?
BOW
OH MY GOD...
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S *THIS* HOT!
IT TOOK SO LONG...
FROM THE TIME I WAS A KID, MY LIFE WAS JUST TRAINING AND MORE TRAINING.
I NEVER EVEN HAD TIME TO PLAY OR FIND A GIRLFRIEND.
MWA HA HA HA HA!
I NEARLY DIED SO MANY TIMES... AND IT WAS ALL FOR *NOTHING.*
I EVEN BROUGHT SO MUCH SHAME TO MY FAMILY.
HEH HEH HEH... BUT TO THINK, AFTER ALL THAT...

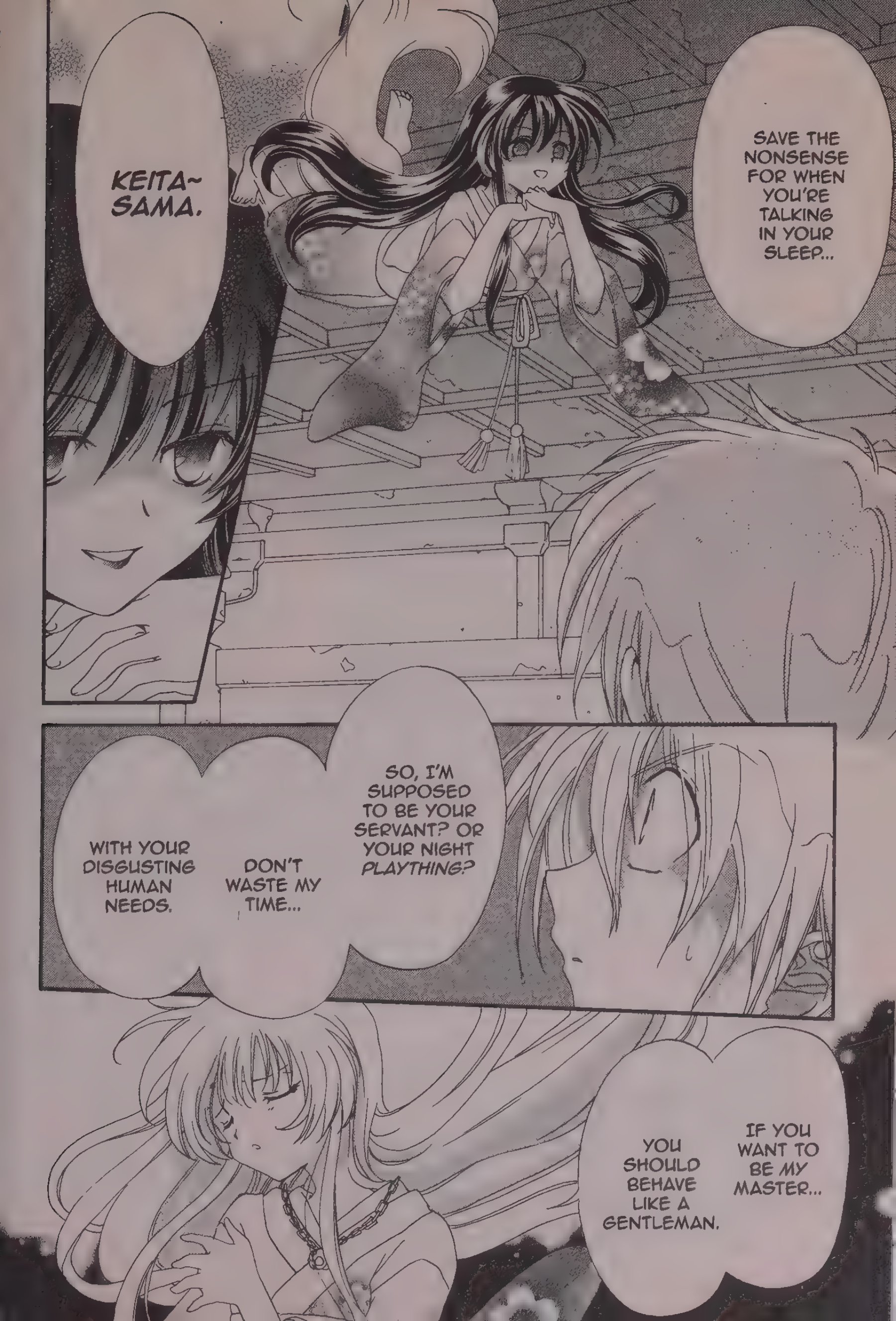

SOOO...
I GUESS NOW WE HAVE TO SEAL OUR AGREEMENT AS *MASTER AND SERVANT.*
OF COURSE.
THIS IS YOURS FOR NOW.
WHEN WE GET INTO TOWN, I'LL GET YOU A NECKLACE...
ERR, *COLLAR*-- AND YOU CAN TRADE THAT BACK TO ME FOR IT.
THEN WE'LL BE *OFFICIALLY* MASTER AND SERVANT.
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO SHAKE ON IT AND WE'LL BE DONE.
THE EXCHANGE WILL BE COMPLETE.
BUT...

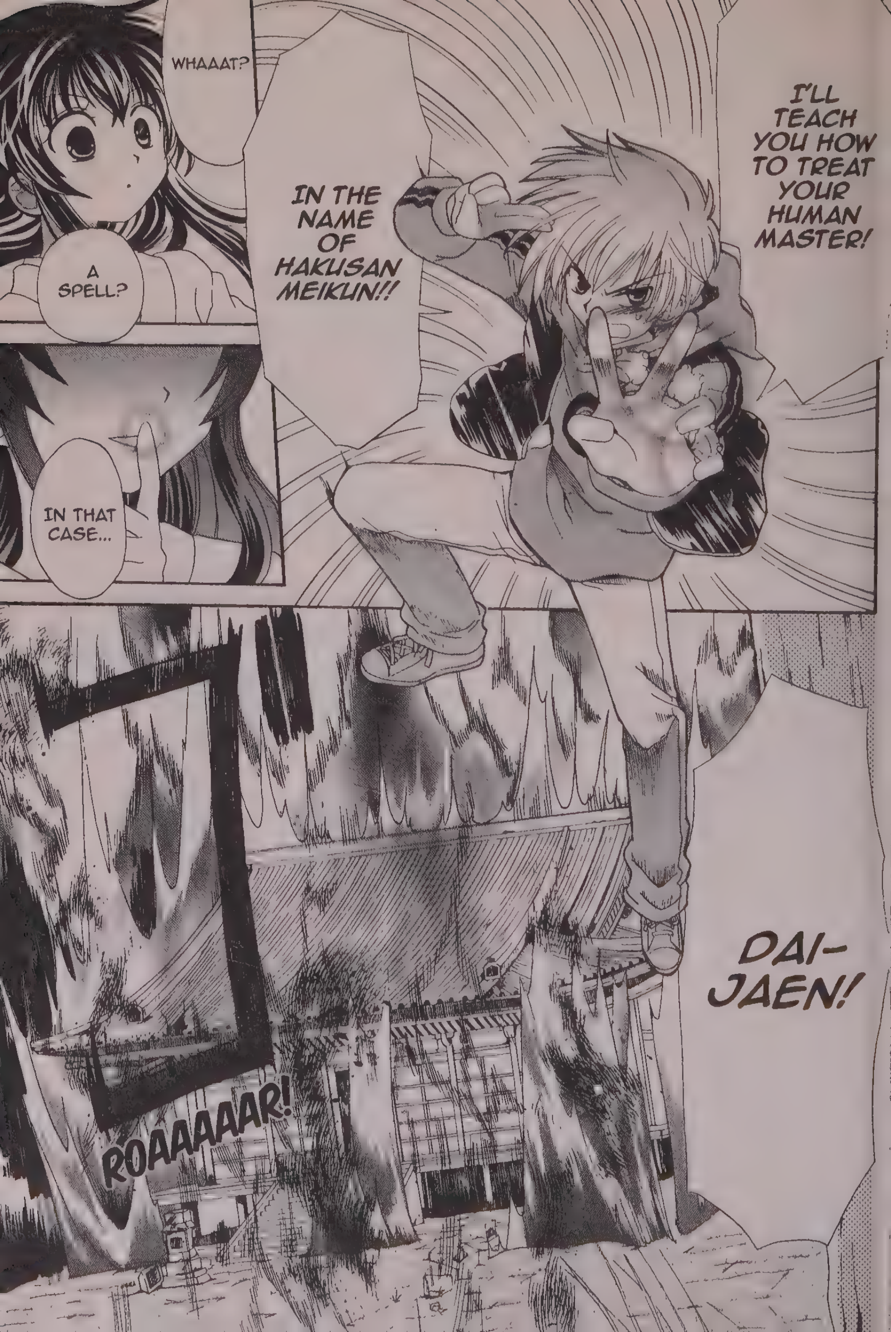

YOKO.
OKAY, LISTEN, YOKO.
I AM KAWAHIRA KEITA.
I AM YOUR MASTER.
FROM NOW ON, CALL ME "KEITA-SAMA."
YES.
IF I BLOW THIS WHISTLE, YOU COME TO ME, NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE.
AND YOU DO WHAT I SAY, NO MATTER WHAT.
YES.
I'LL DO ANYTHING.
SMILE
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME FROM NOW ON...
KEITA-SAMA.

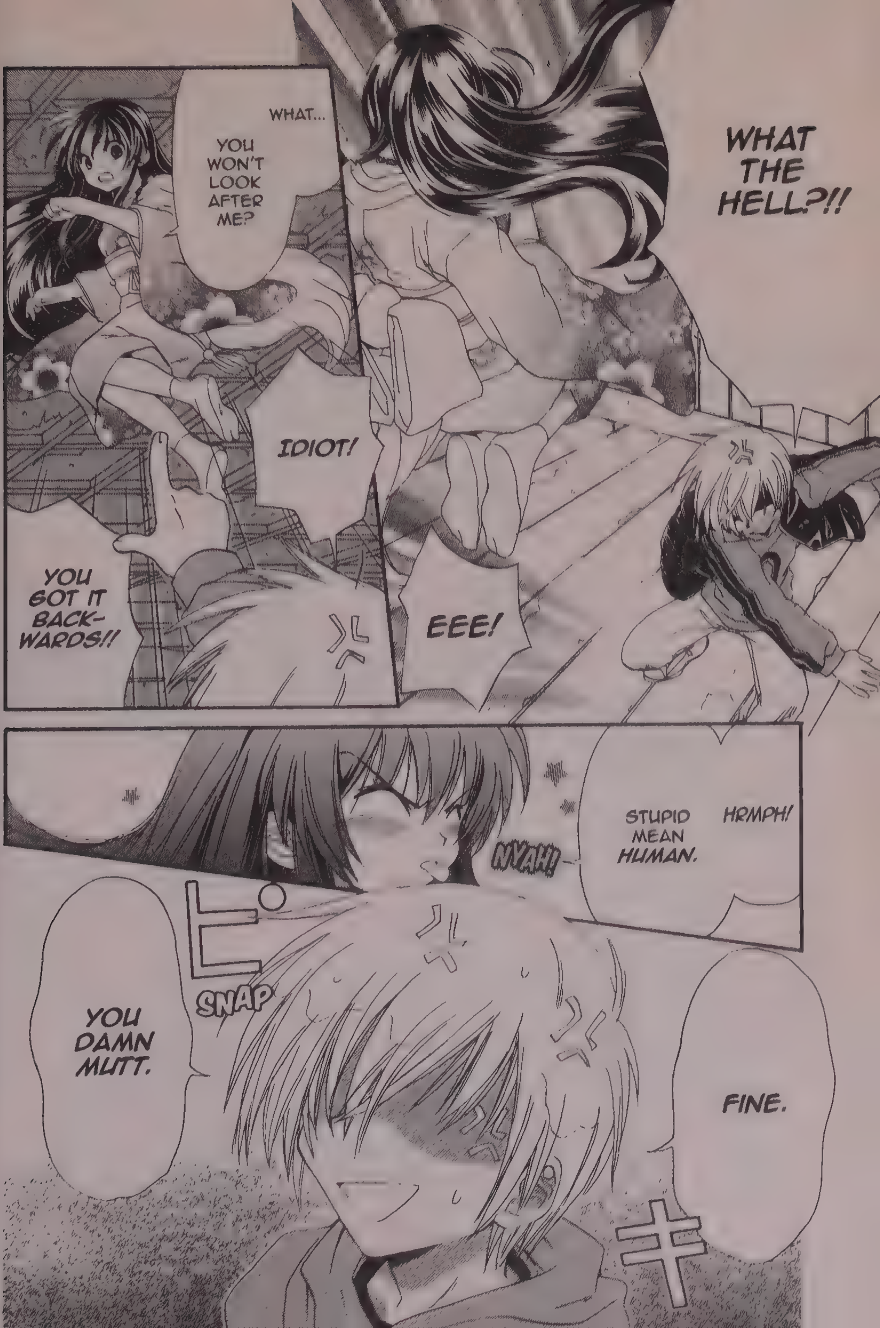

HUH?
WOOSH
DAH! FIRE?! FIRE!! HOT HOT HOT HOT!
EEEEK!
WATER, WATER!!
FLAIL
FLAIL
OKAY, WATER.
FWOOSH!
ARGH!
......
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
FLOP
HEE HEE...

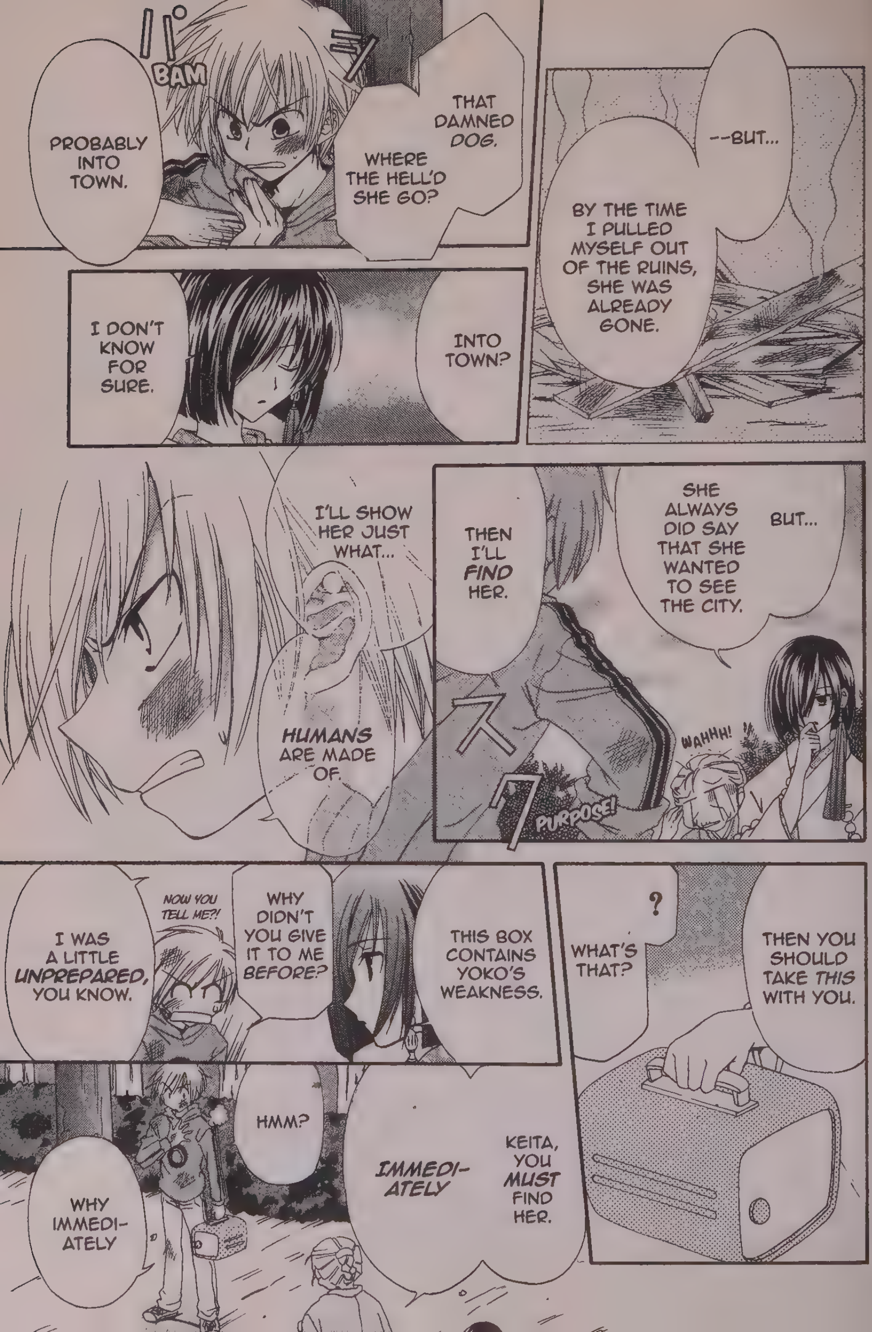

I CAN'T GO PAST THE BARRIER SURROUNDING THIS MOUNTAIN.
DON'T WORRY.
WITH THAT NECKLACE ON...
YOU'RE FREE TO COME AND GO AS YOU LIKE.
HMM...
WELL...
LET'S SHAKE FIRST.
SHAKE, GIRL!
?
YOU DON'T KNOW... HOW TO SHAKE?

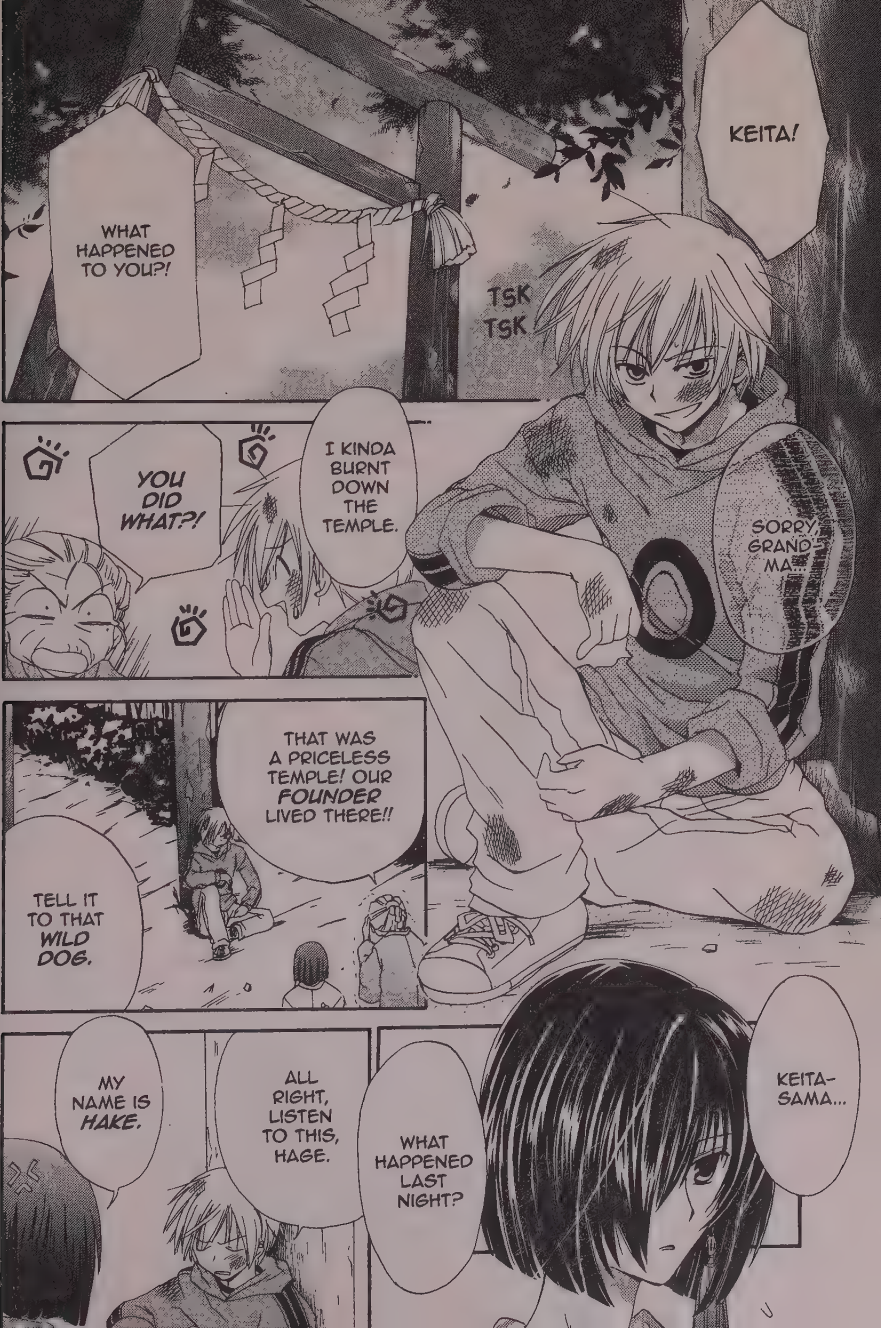

SMILE
YOU ACT LIKE YOU JUST BARELY LEARNED TO STAND UPRIGHT.
AND YOU HAVE THE FACE OF A *MONKEY.*
BUT I *WOULD* LIKE TO SEE THE WORLD.
SO I'LL *ACT* LIKE YOU'RE MY MASTER.
YOU SHOULD BE SATISFIED WITH *THAT.*
FIRST, I WANT TO GO TO *TOKYO TOWER.*
TAKE ME THERE.
HEY! ARE YOU LISTENING?
TOKYO TOWER... AND I WANNA EAT SOME *CHOCOLATE CAKE!*
HEY, *HELLO?*
ブチ
SNAP

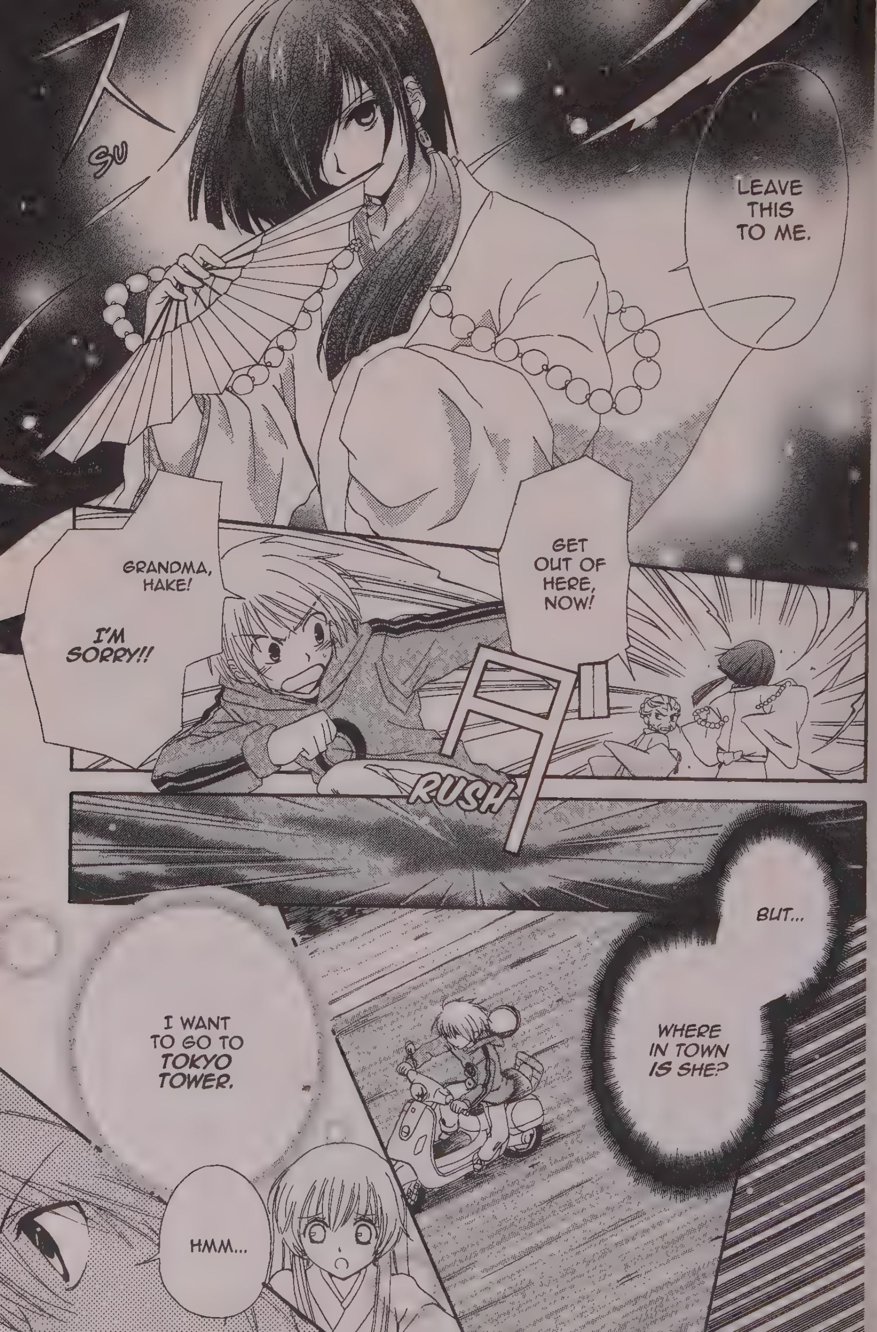

SAVE THE NONSENSE FOR WHEN YOU'RE TALKING IN YOUR SLEEP...
KEITA-SAMA.
SO, I'M SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR SERVANT? OR YOUR NIGHT *PLAYTHING?*
DON'T WASTE MY TIME...
WITH YOUR DISGUSTING HUMAN NEEDS.
IF YOU WANT TO BE *MY* MASTER...
YOU SHOULD BEHAVE LIKE A GENTLEMAN.

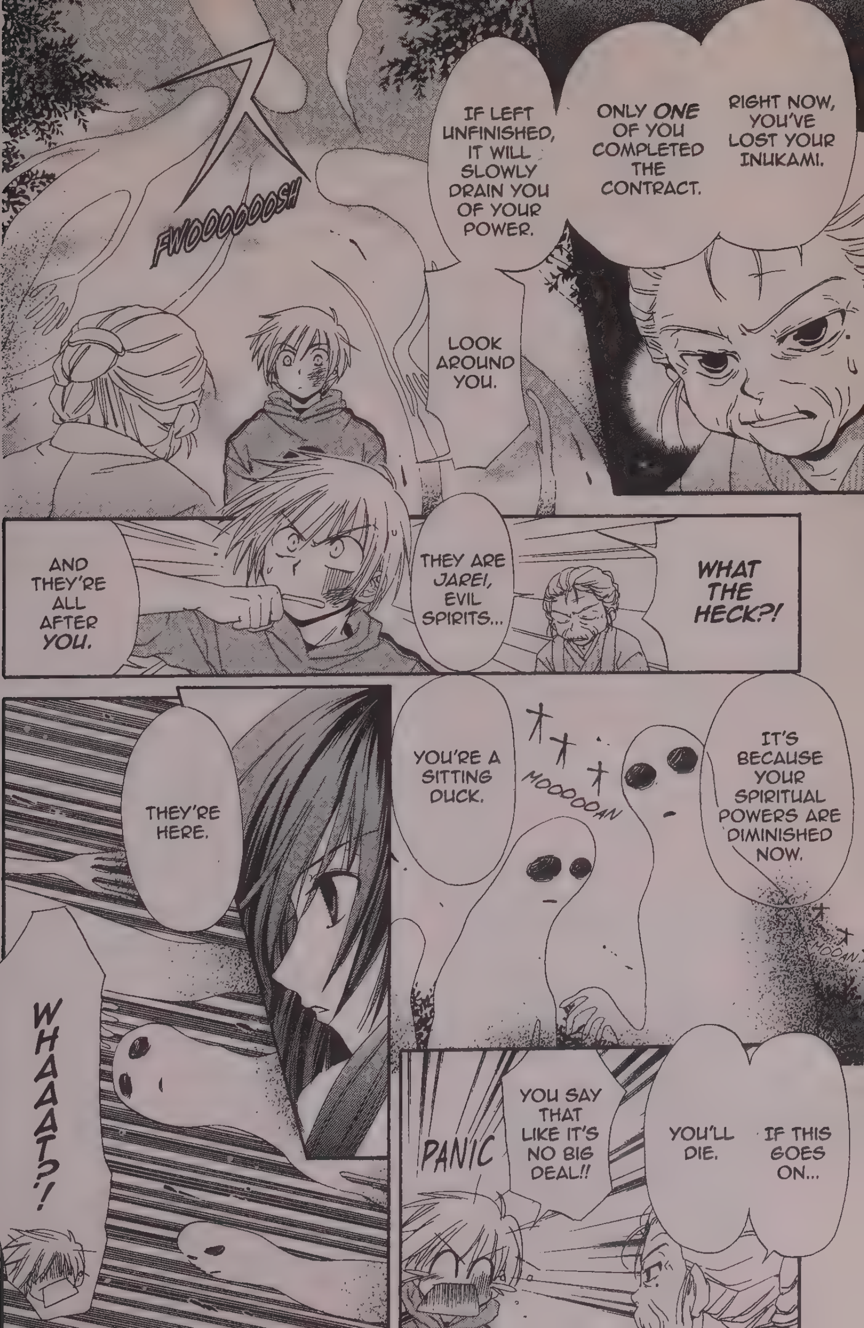

I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO TREAT YOUR HUMAN MASTER!
IN THE NAME OF HAKUSAN MEIKUN!!
WHAAAT?
A SPELL?
IN THAT CASE...
DAI-JAEN!
ROAAAAAR!

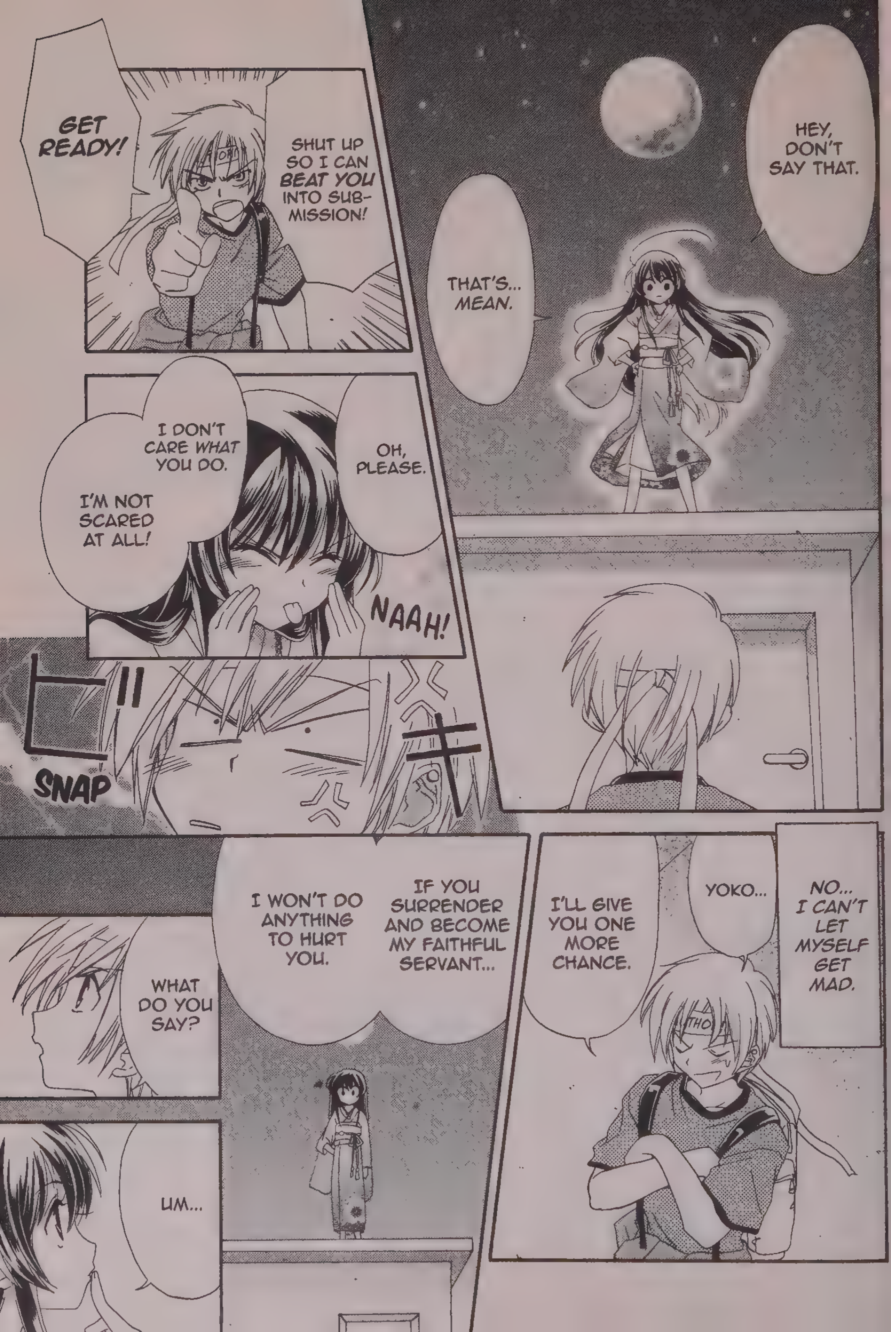

WHAT THE HELL?!!
EEE!
WHAT...
YOU WON'T LOOK AFTER ME?
IDIOT!
YOU GOT IT BACKWARDS!!
HRMPH!
STUPID MEAN HUMAN.
NYAH!
SNAP
FINE.
YOU DAMN MUTT.

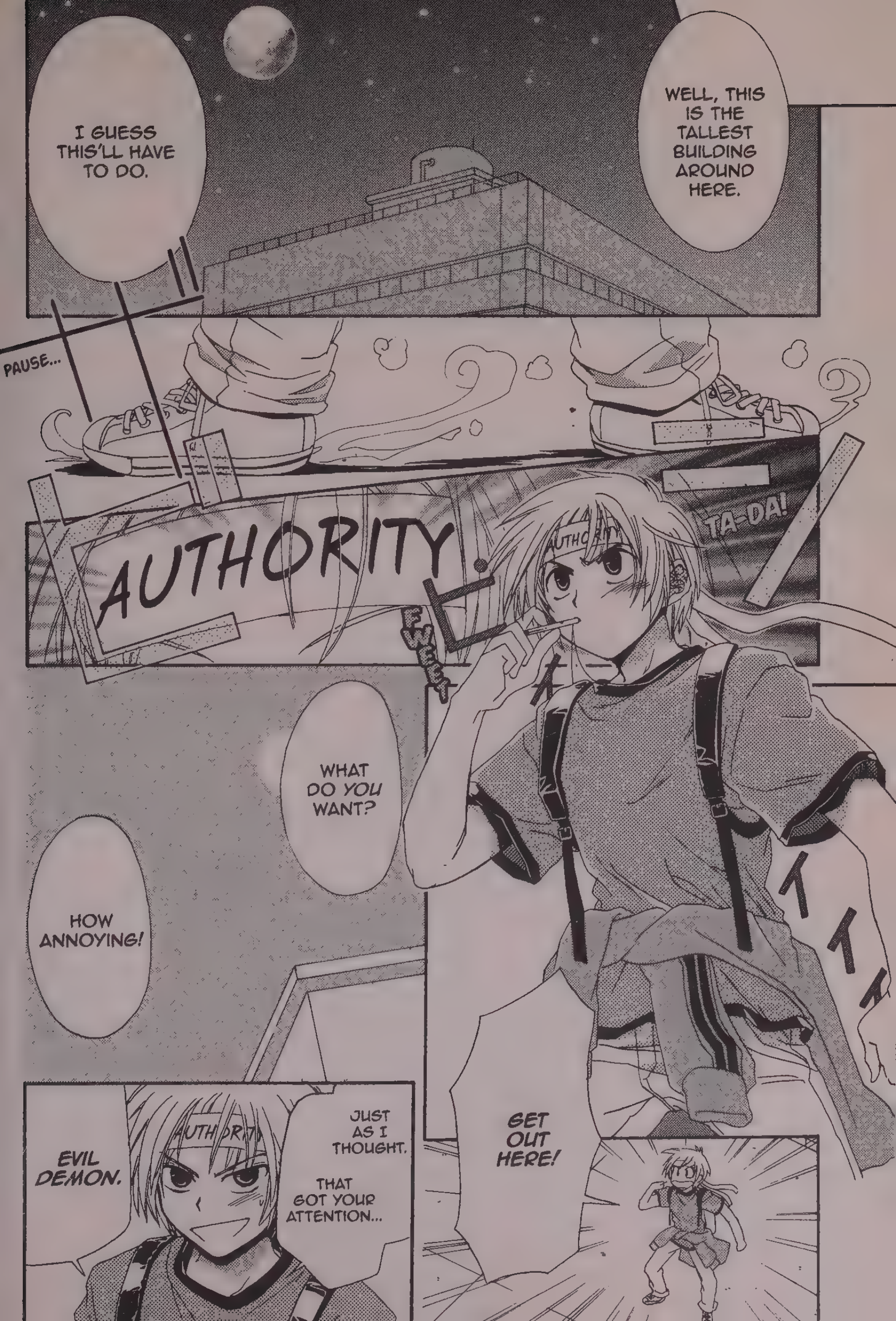

--BUT...
BY THE TIME I PULLED MYSELF OUT OF THE RUINS, SHE WAS ALREADY GONE.
THAT DAMNED DOG.
WHERE THE HELL'D SHE GO?
BAM
PROBABLY INTO TOWN.
INTO TOWN?
I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE.
BUT...
SHE ALWAYS DID SAY THAT SHE WANTED TO SEE THE CITY.
THEN I'LL *FIND* HER.
PURPOSE!
WAHHH!
I'LL SHOW HER JUST WHAT...
HUMANS ARE MADE OF.
THEN YOU SHOULD TAKE *THIS* WITH YOU.
?
WHAT'S THAT?
THIS BOX CONTAINS YOKO'S WEAKNESS.
WHY DIDN'T YOU GIVE IT TO ME *BEFORE*?
NOW YOU TELL ME?!
I WAS A LITTLE *UNPREPARED*, YOU KNOW.
KEITA, YOU *MUST* FIND HER.
IMMEDIATELY
HMM?
WHY IMMEDIATELY

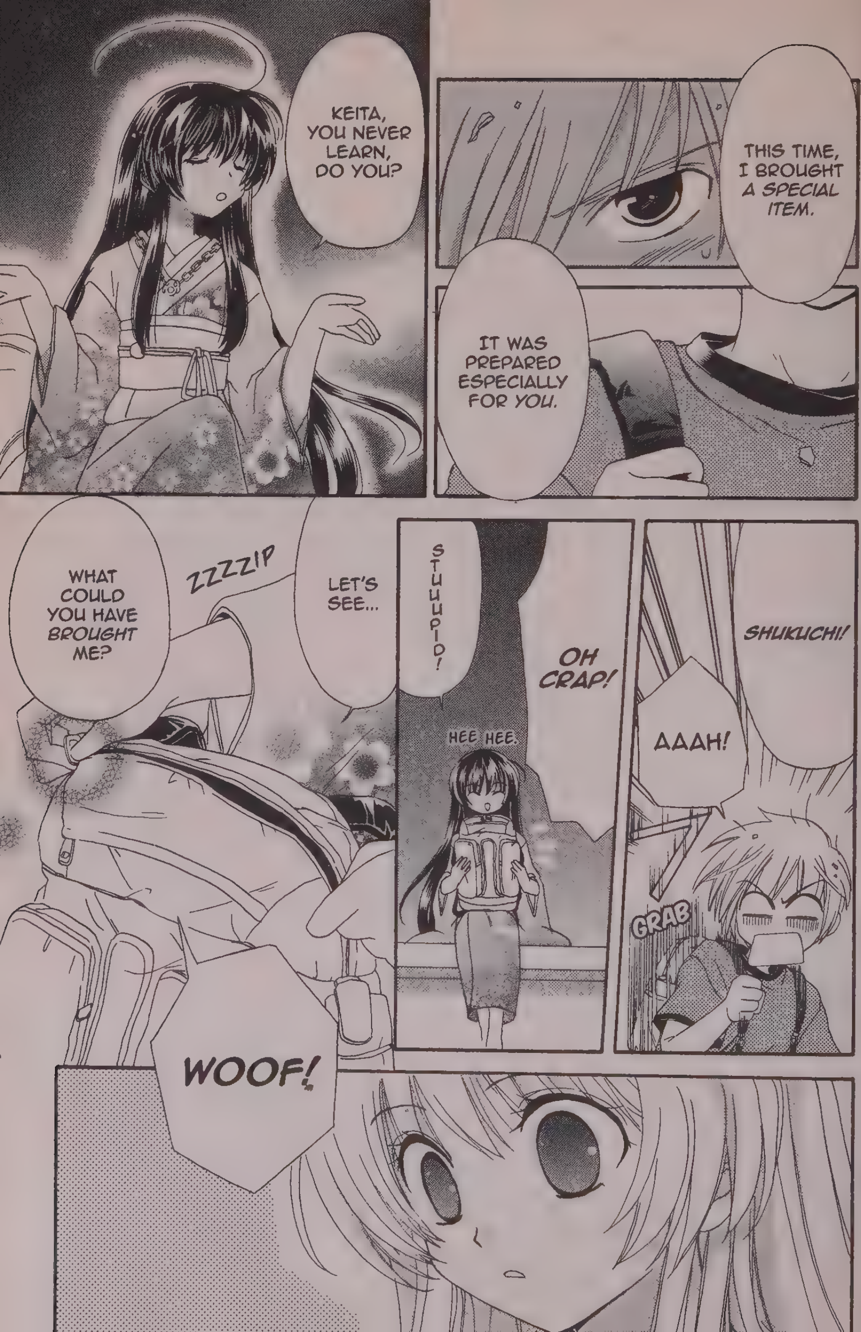

KEITA!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
TSK TSK
SORRY, GRANDMA...
I KINDA BURNT DOWN THE TEMPLE.
YOU DID WHAT?!
THAT WAS A PRICELESS TEMPLE! OUR *FOUNDER* LIVED THERE!!
TELL IT TO THAT *WILD DOG.*
KEITA-SAMA...
WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?
ALL RIGHT, LISTEN TO THIS, HAGE.
MY NAME IS *HAKE.*

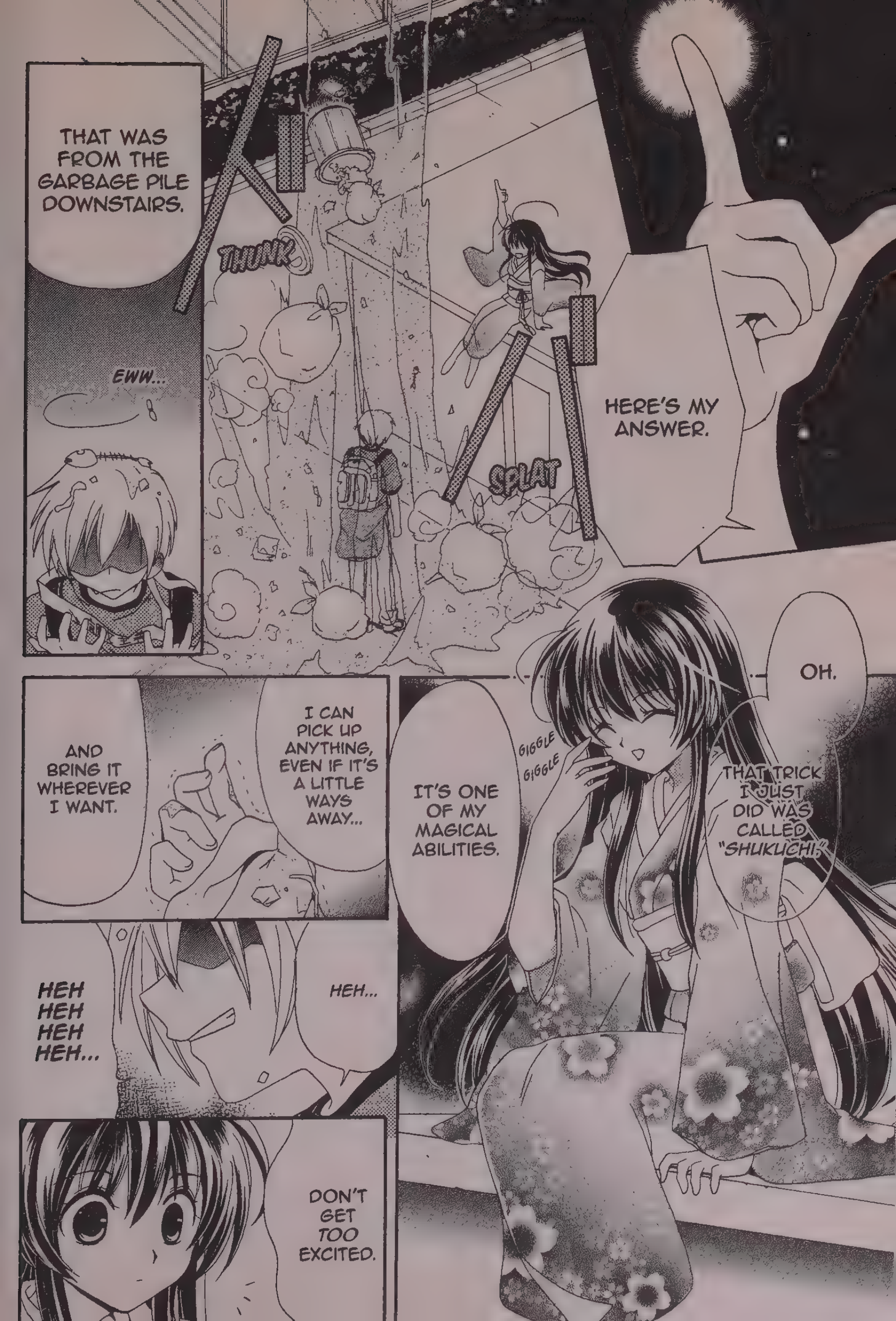

SU
LEAVE THIS TO ME.
GET OUT OF HERE, NOW!
GRANDMA, HAKE!
I'M SORRY!!
RUSH
BUT...
WHERE IN TOWN IS SHE?
I WANT TO GO TO TOKYO TOWER.
HMM...

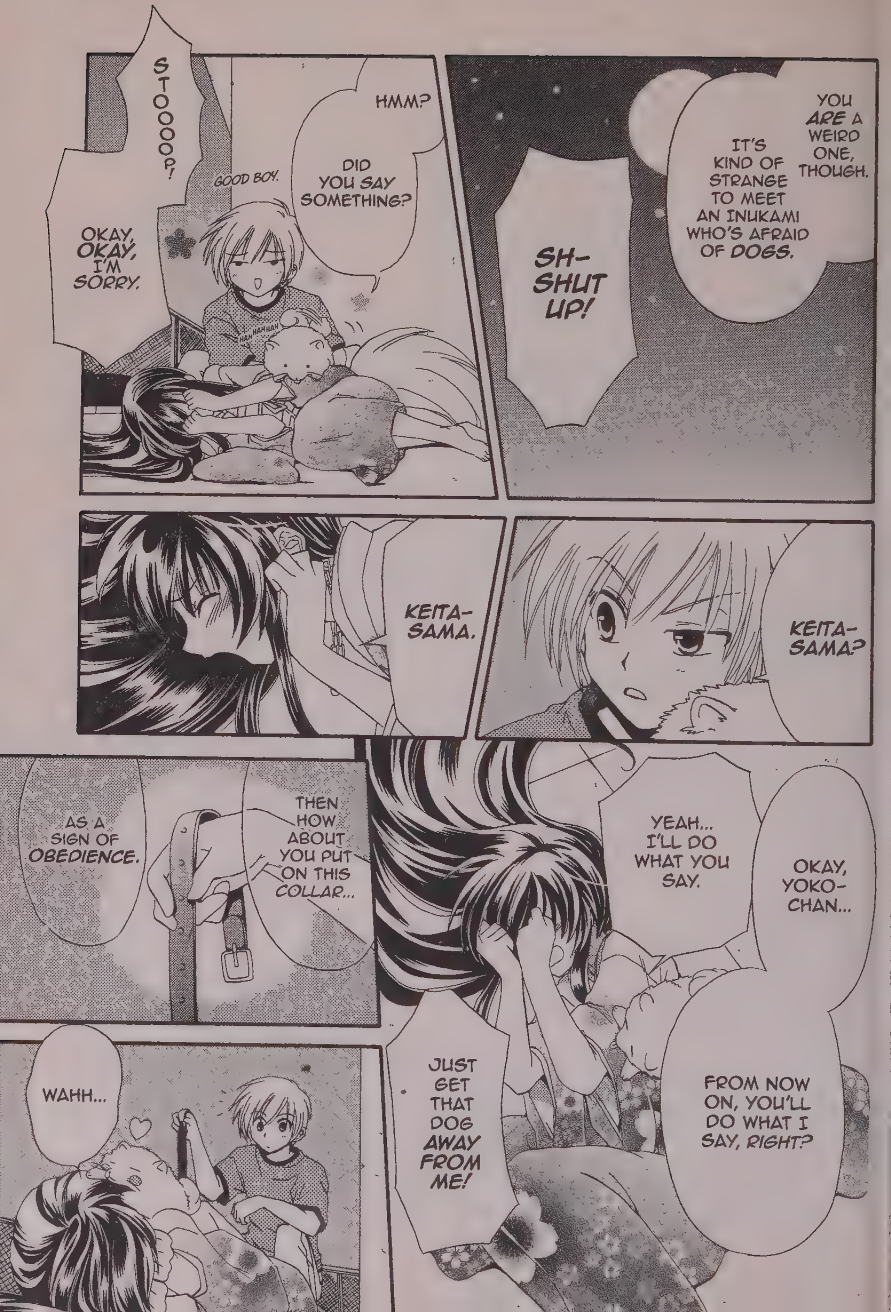

RIGHT NOW, YOU'VE LOST YOUR INUKAMI.
ONLY ONE OF YOU COMPLETED THE CONTRACT.
IF LEFT UNFINISHED, IT WILL SLOWLY DRAIN YOU OF YOUR POWER.
FWOOOOOOSH
LOOK AROUND YOU.
WHAT THE HECK?!
THEY ARE JAREI, EVIL SPIRITS...
AND THEY'RE ALL AFTER YOU.
IT'S BECAUSE YOUR SPIRITUAL POWERS ARE DIMINISHED NOW.
MOOOOOAN
MOOAN
YOU'RE A SITTING DUCK.
THEY'RE HERE.
WHAAAAT?!
IF THIS GOES ON...
YOU'LL DIE.
YOU SAY THAT LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL!!
PANIC

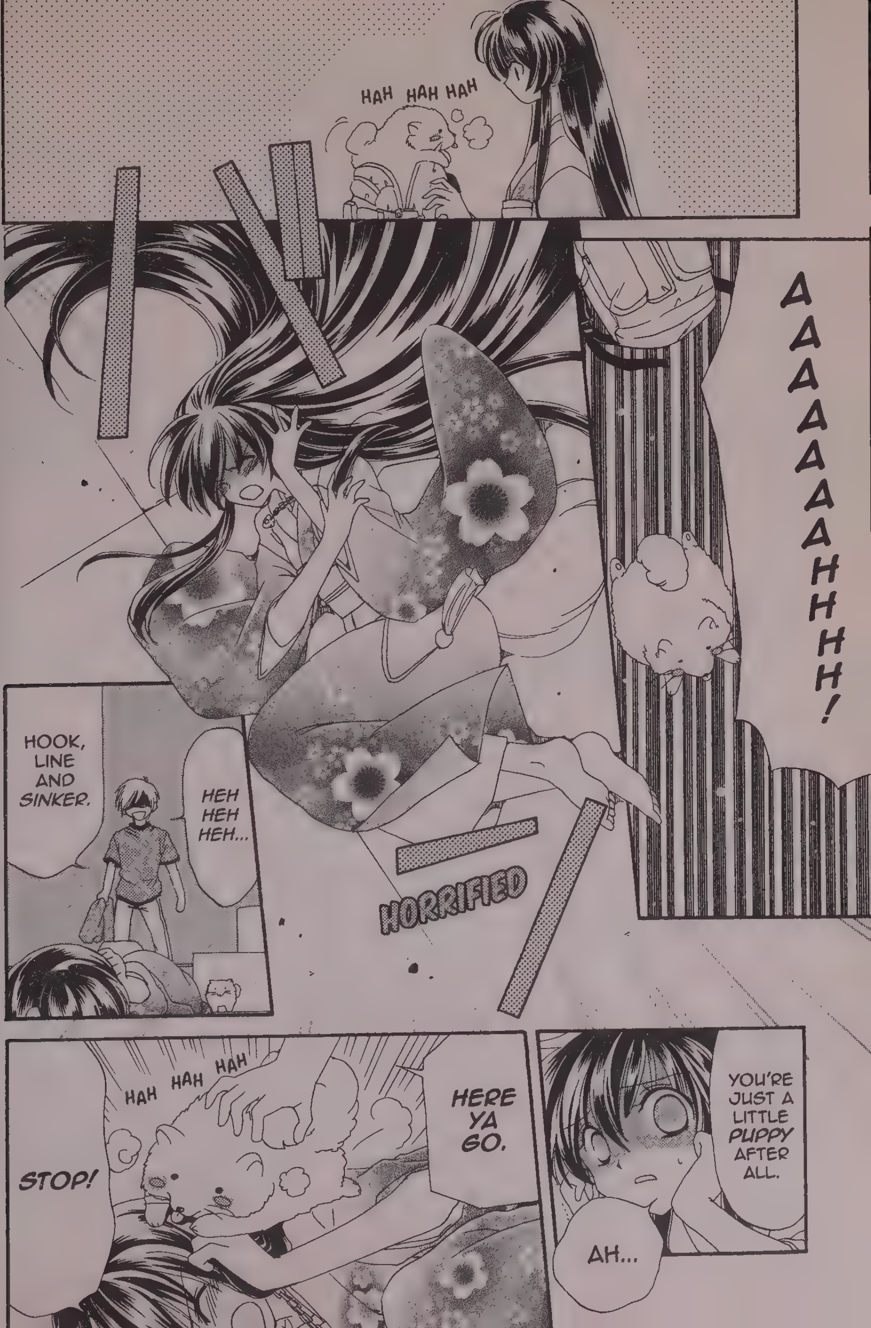

HEY, DON'T SAY THAT.
THAT'S... MEAN.
SHUT UP SO I CAN BEAT YOU INTO SUBMISSION!
GET READY!
OH, PLEASE.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO.
I'M NOT SCARED AT ALL!
NAAH!
SNAP
NO... I CAN'T LET MYSELF GET MAD.
YOKO...
I'LL GIVE YOU ONE MORE CHANCE.
IF YOU SURRENDER AND BECOME MY FAITHFUL SERVANT...
I WON'T DO ANYTHING TO HURT YOU.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
UM...

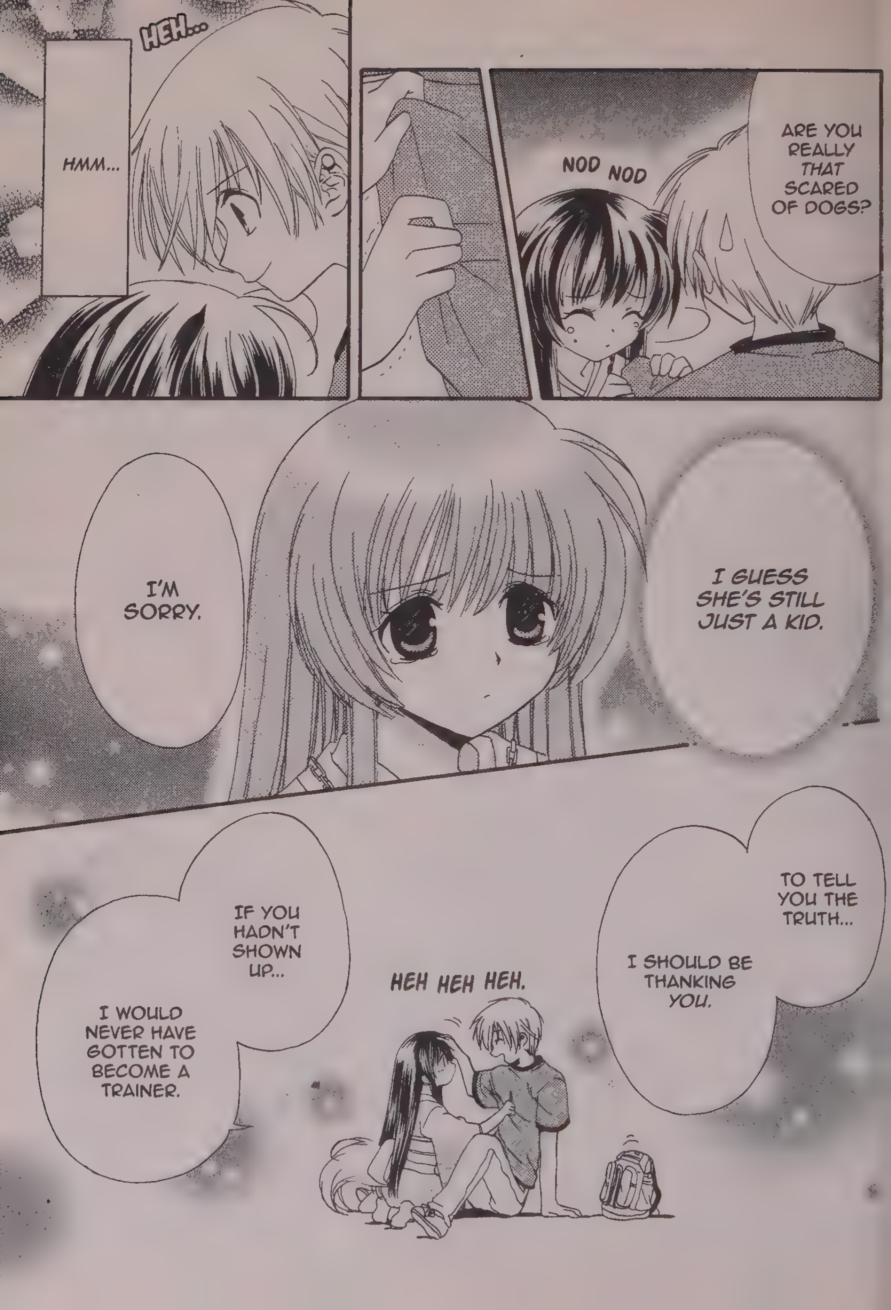

WELL, THIS IS THE TALLEST BUILDING AROUND HERE.
I GUESS THIS'LL HAVE TO DO.
PAUSE...
TA-DA!
AUTHORITY
FWEET
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HOW ANNOYING!
GET OUT HERE!
JUST AS I THOUGHT.
THAT GOT YOUR ATTENTION...
EVIL DEMON.

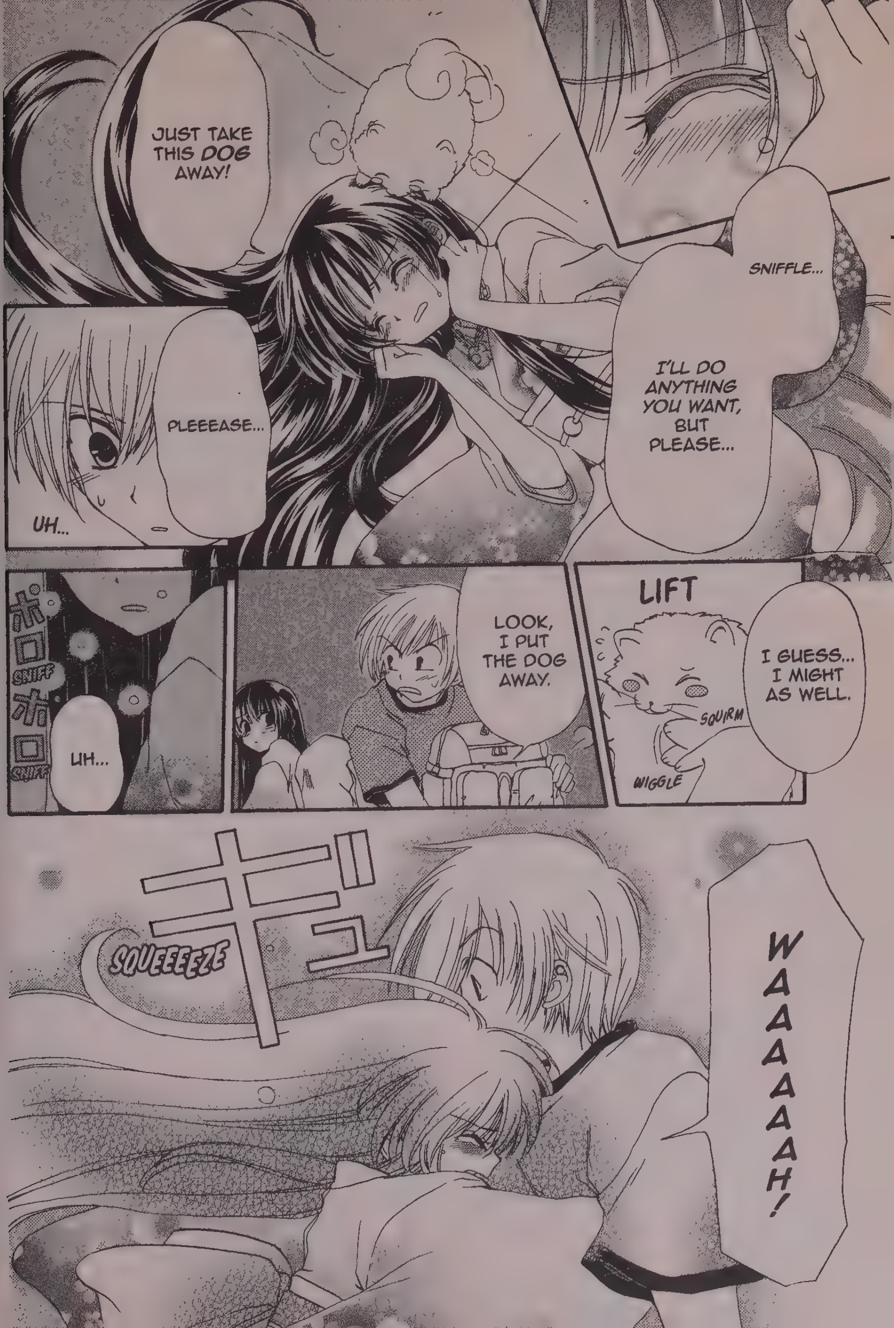

THIS TIME, I BROUGHT A SPECIAL ITEM.
IT WAS PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR YOU.
KEITA, YOU NEVER LEARN, DO YOU?
SHUKUCHI!
AAAH!
GRAB
OH CRAP!
STUUUPID!
HEE HEE.
LET'S SEE...
ZZZZIP
WHAT COULD YOU HAVE BROUGHT ME?
WOOF!

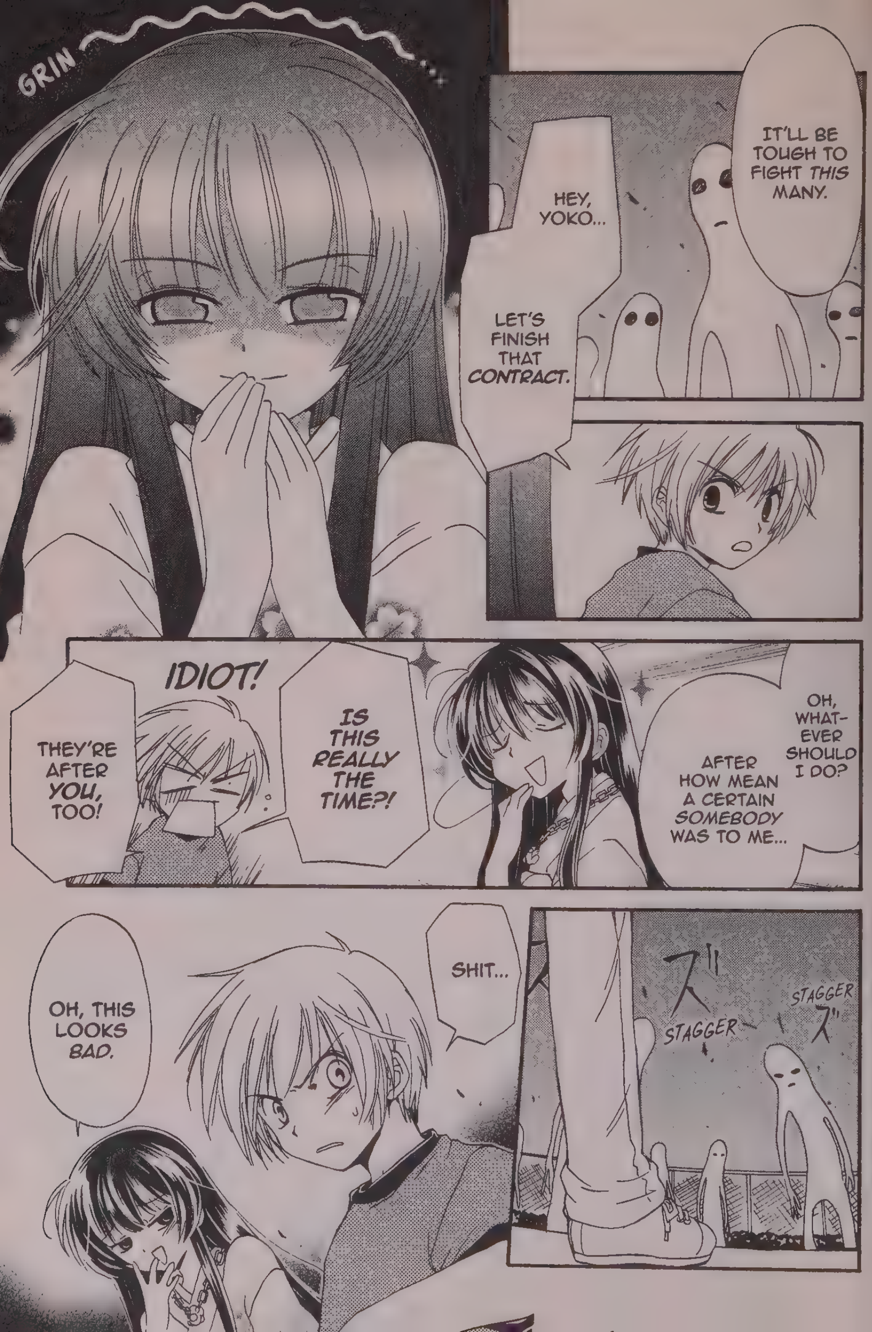

HERE'S MY ANSWER.
SPLAT
THUNK
THAT WAS FROM THE GARBAGE PILE DOWNSTAIRS.
EWW...
OH.
THAT TRICK I JUST DID WAS CALLED "SHUKUCHI."
GIGGLE GIGGLE
IT'S ONE OF MY MAGICAL ABILITIES.
I CAN PICK UP ANYTHING, EVEN IF IT'S A LITTLE WAYS AWAY...
AND BRING IT WHEREVER I WANT.
HEH...
HEH HEH HEH HEH...
DON'T GET *TOO* EXCITED.

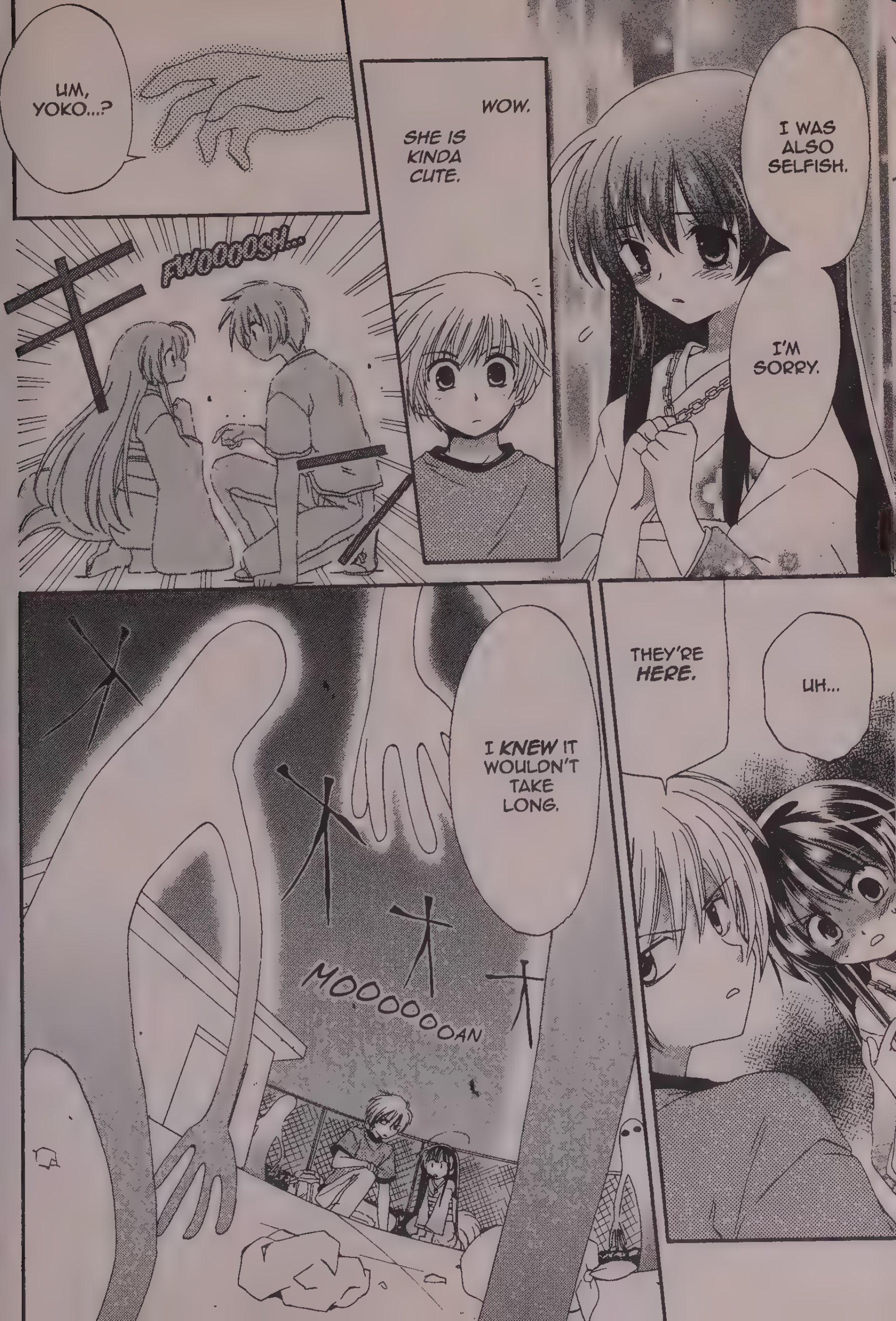

YOU *ARE* A WEIRD ONE, THOUGH.
IT'S KIND OF STRANGE TO MEET AN INUKAMI WHO'S AFRAID OF *DOGS*.
SH-SHUT UP!
HMM?
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
GOOD BOY.
HAH HAH HAH
STOOOOP!
OKAY, *OKAY*, I'M *SORRY*.
KEITA-SAMA?
KEITA-SAMA.
OKAY, YOKO-CHAN...
YEAH... I'LL DO WHAT YOU SAY.
FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL DO WHAT I SAY, RIGHT?
JUST GET THAT DOG *AWAY FROM ME!*
THEN HOW ABOUT YOU PUT ON THIS COLLAR...
AS A SIGN OF *OBEDIENCE*.
WAHH...

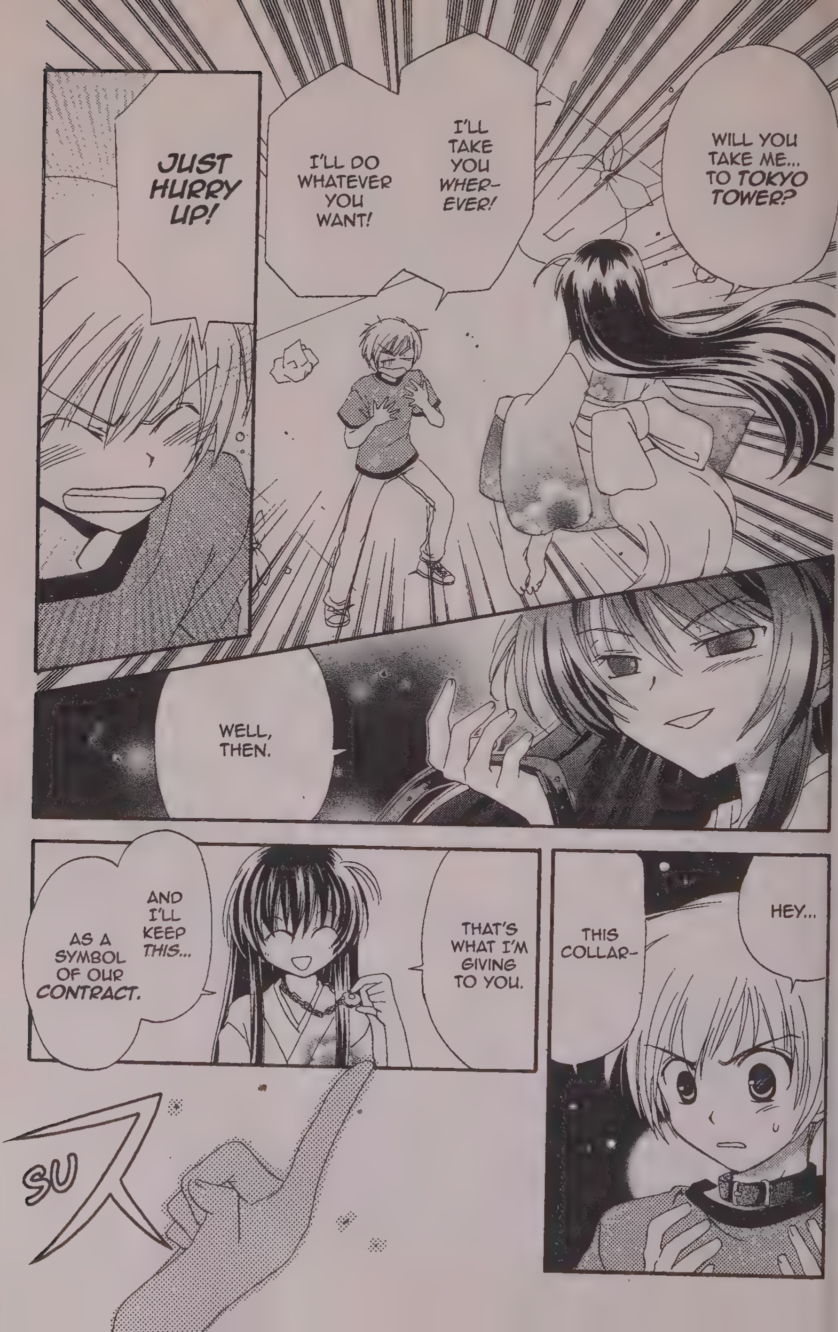

HAH HAH HAH
AAAAAAAHHHH!
HORRIFIED
HEH HEH HEH...
HOOK, LINE AND SINKER.
YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE *PUPPY* AFTER ALL.
AH...
HERE YA GO.
HAH HAH HAH
STOP!

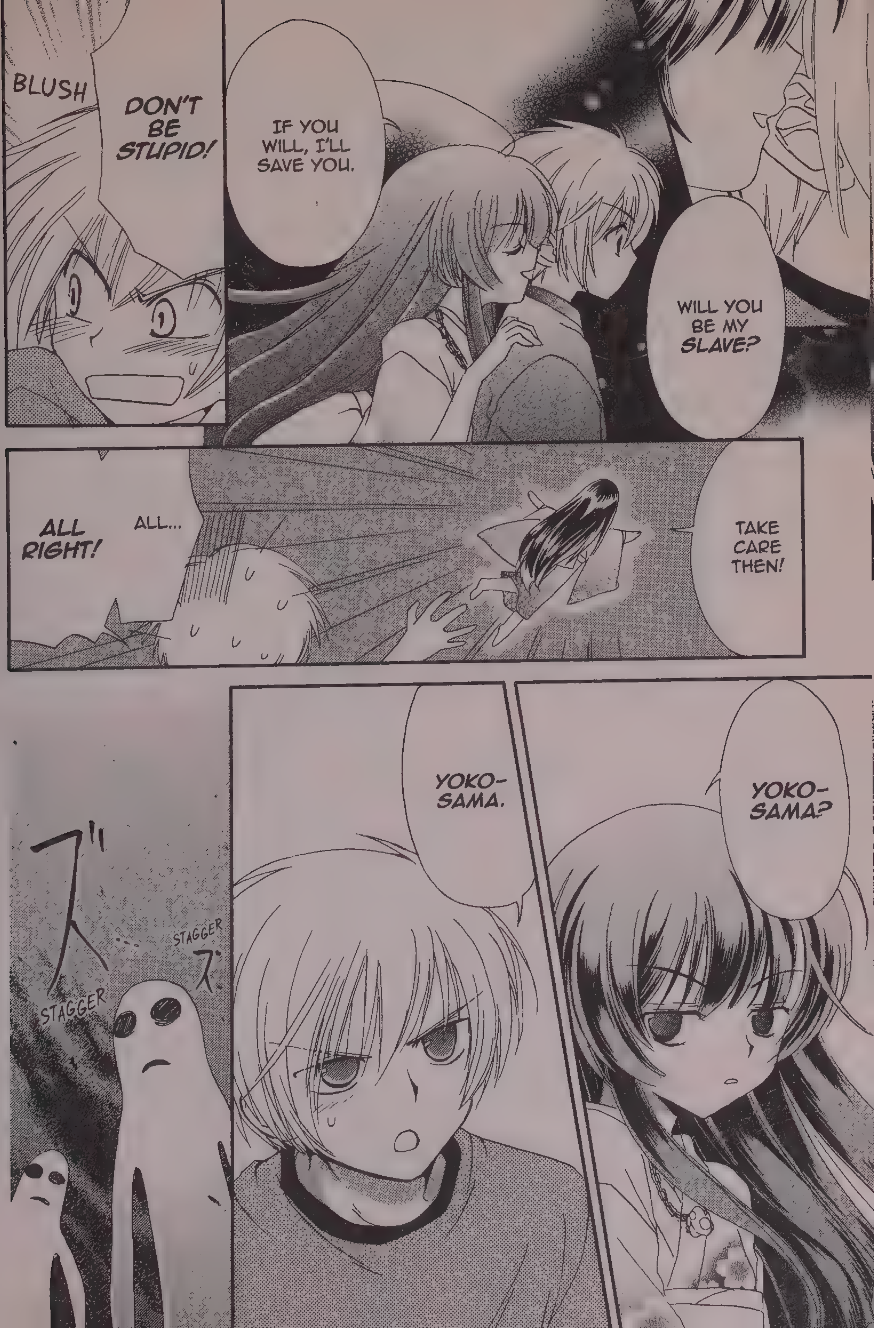

ARE YOU REALLY THAT SCARED OF DOGS?
NOD NOD
HEH...
HMM...
I GUESS SHE'S STILL JUST A KID.
I'M SORRY.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU.
HEH HEH HEH.
IF YOU HADN'T SHOWN UP...
I WOULD NEVER HAVE GOTTEN TO BECOME A TRAINER.

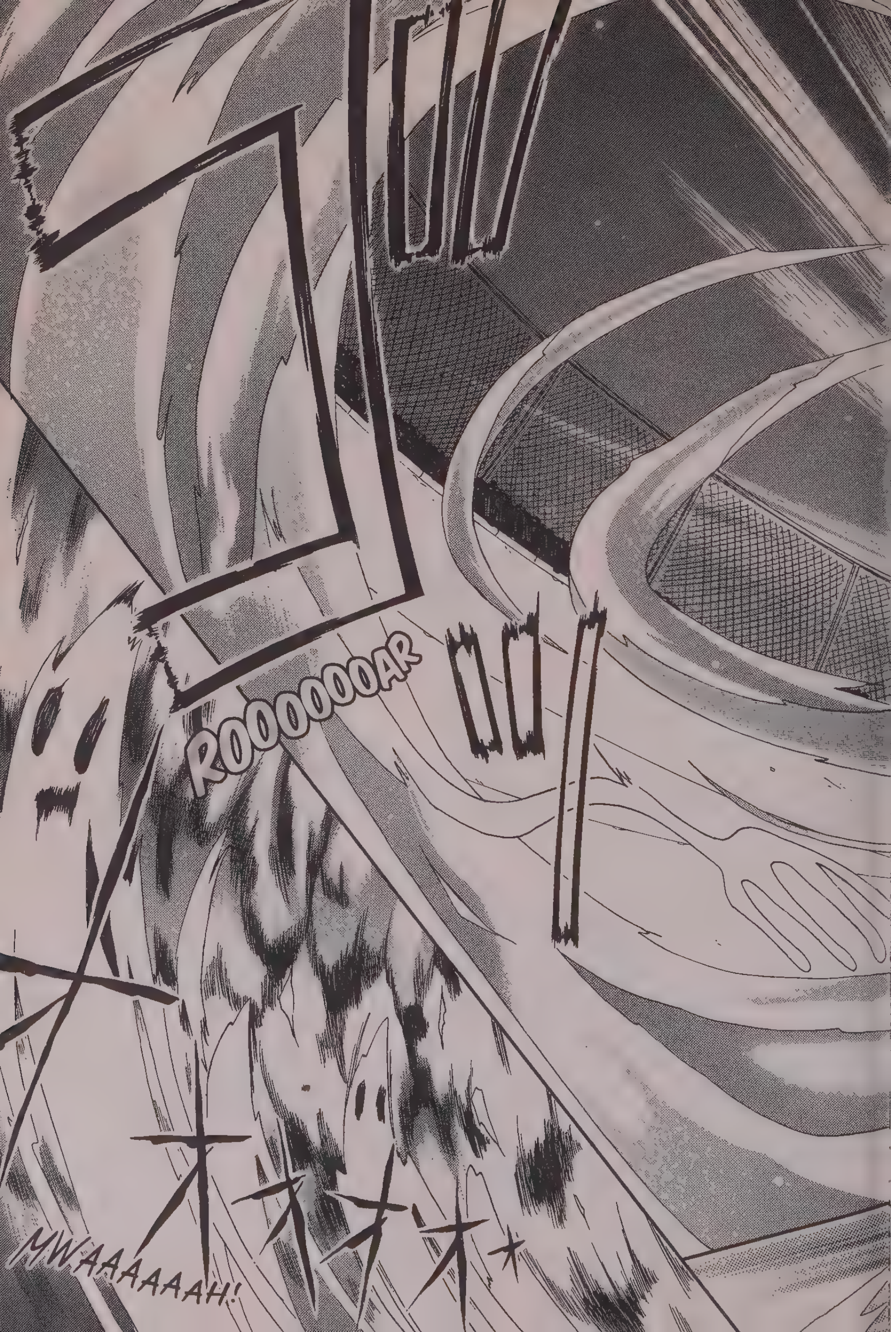

SNIFFLE...
I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT, BUT PLEASE...
JUST TAKE THIS *DOG* AWAY!
PLEEEASE...
UH...
LIFT
I GUESS... I MIGHT AS WELL.
SQUIRM
WIGGLE
LOOK, I PUT THE DOG AWAY.
ポロ
SNIFF
ポロ
SNIFF
UH...
WAAAAAAAH!
ギュ
SQUEEEEEZE

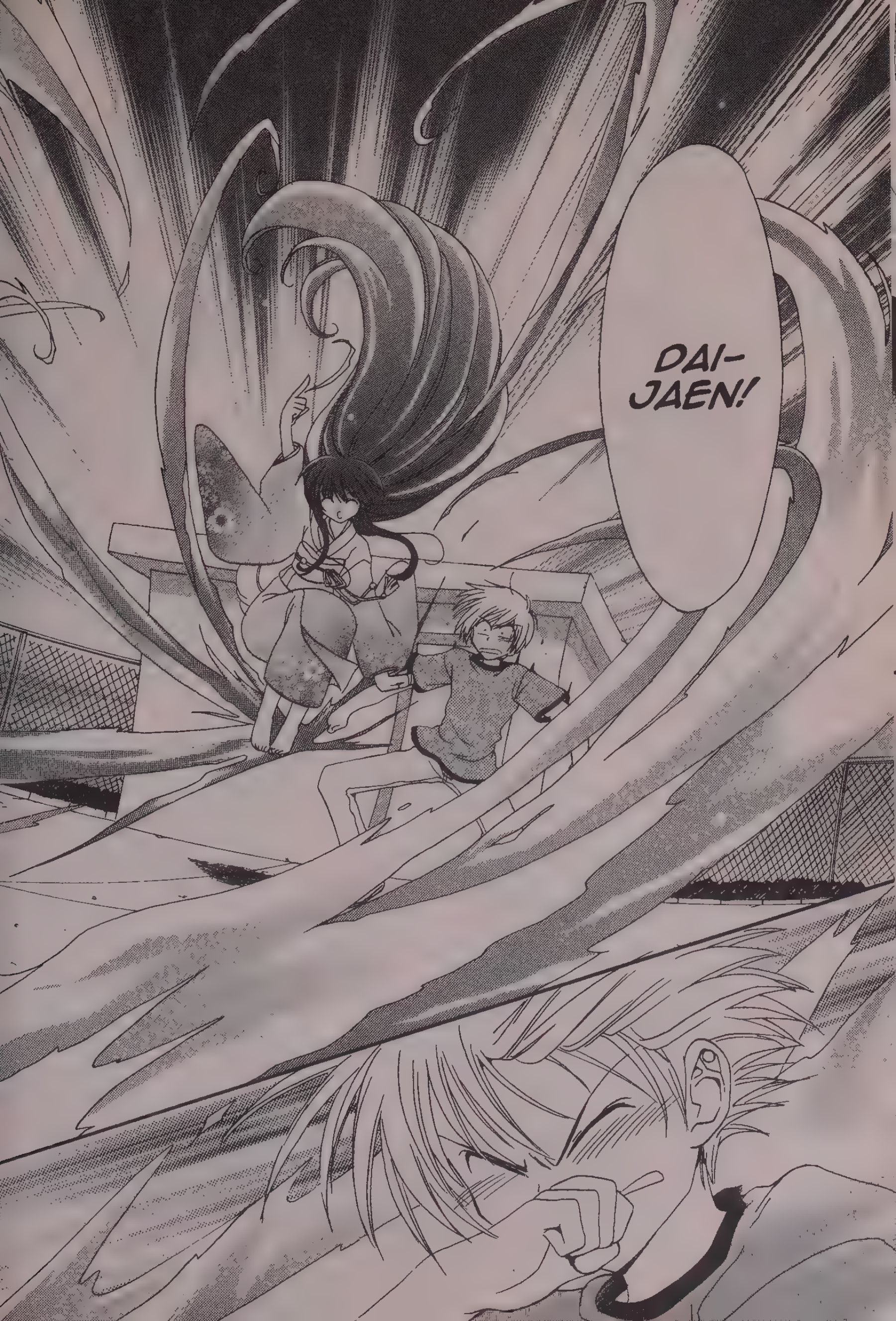

IT'LL BE TOUGH TO FIGHT *THIS* MANY.
HEY, YOKO...
LET'S FINISH THAT *CONTRACT.*
GRIN
OH, WHATEVER SHOULD I DO?
AFTER HOW MEAN A CERTAIN SOMEBODY WAS TO ME...
IS THIS REALLY THE TIME?!
IDIOT!
THEY'RE AFTER *YOU,* TOO!
ズ
STAGGER
ズ
STAGGER
SHIT...
OH, THIS LOOKS BAD.

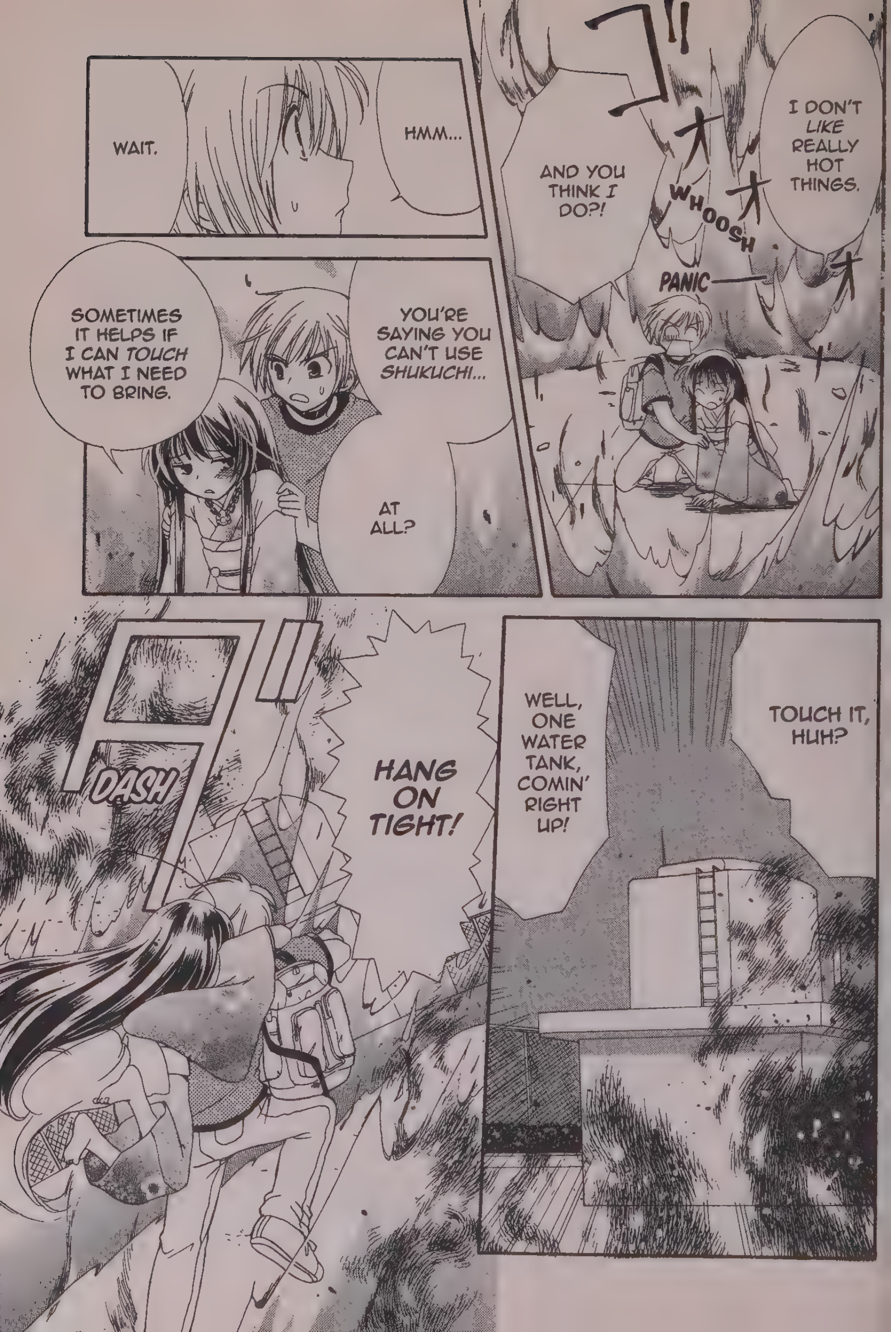

I WAS ALSO SELFISH.
I'M SORRY.
WOW.
SHE IS KINDA CUTE.
UM, YOKO...?
FWOOOOOSH...
UH...
THEY'RE HERE.
I KNEW IT WOULDN'T TAKE LONG.
MOOOOOOOAN

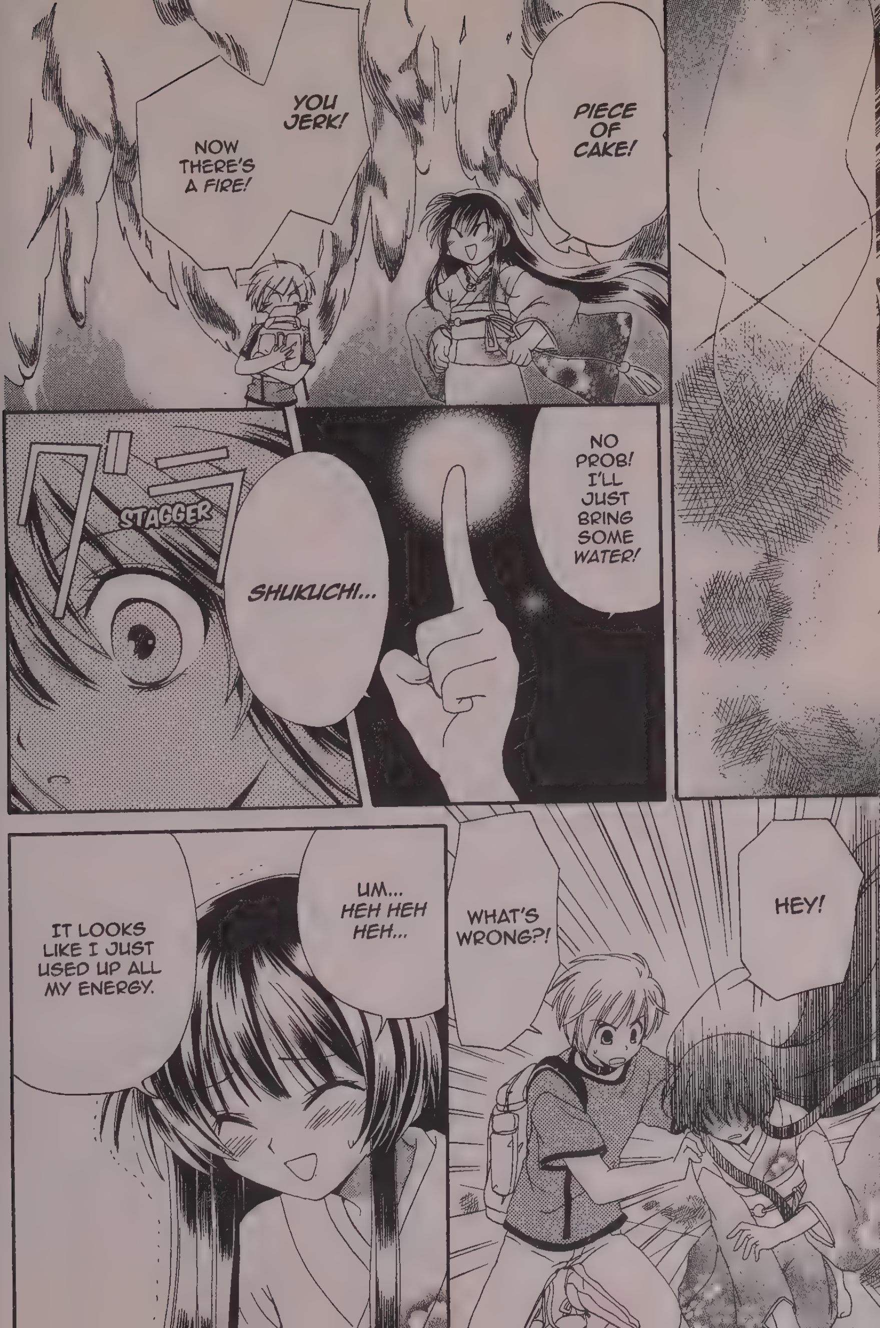

WILL YOU TAKE ME... TO *TOKYO TOWER?*
I'LL TAKE YOU WHEREVER!
I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!
JUST HURRY UP!
WELL, THEN.
HEY...
THIS COLLAR-
THAT'S WHAT I'M GIVING TO YOU.
AND I'LL KEEP *THIS*...
AS A SYMBOL OF OUR *CONTRACT.*
SU

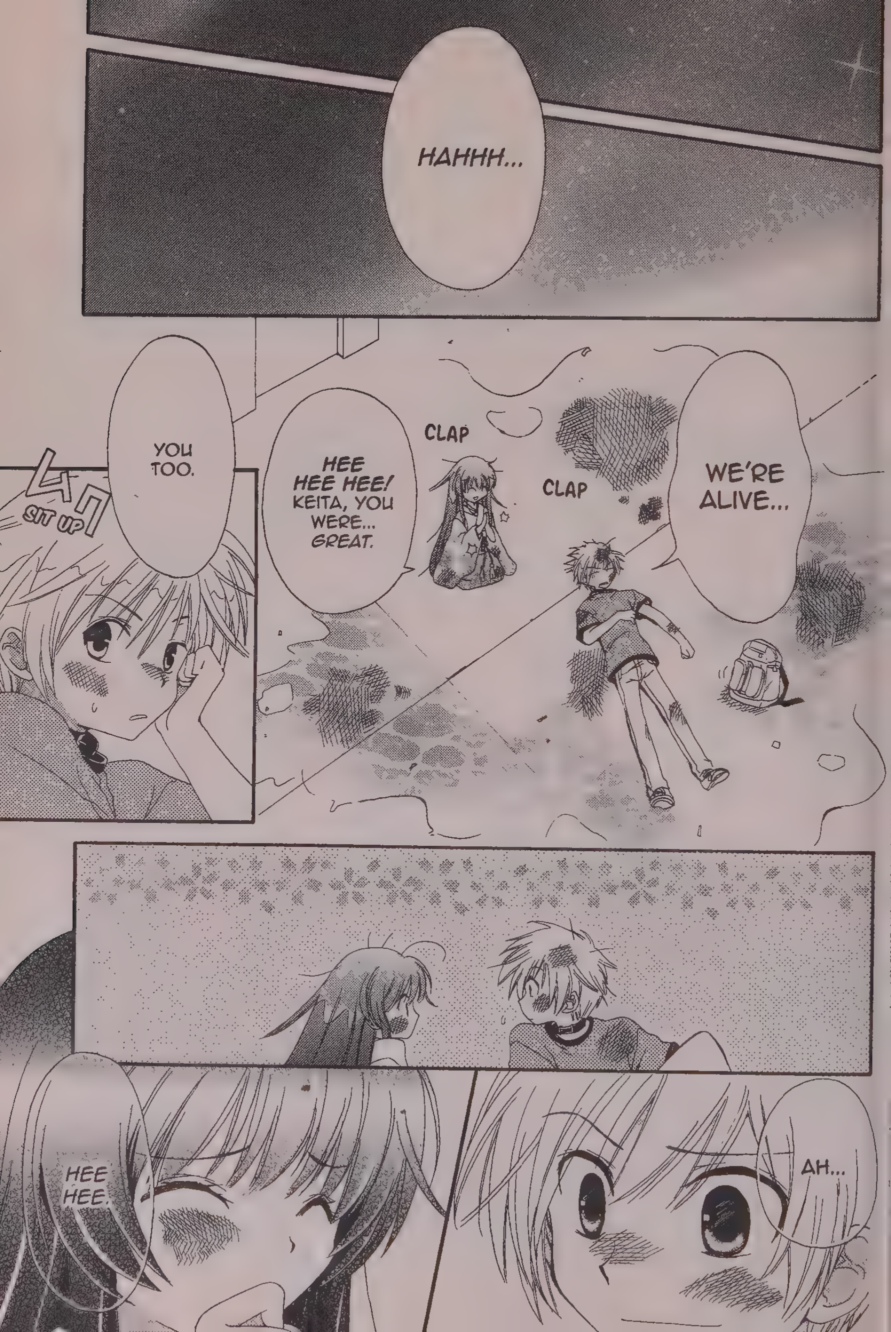

WILL YOU BE MY SLAVE?
IF YOU WILL, I'LL SAVE YOU.
BLUSH
DON'T BE STUPID!
TAKE CARE THEN!
ALL...
ALL RIGHT!
YOKO-SAMA?
YOKO-SAMA.
ズ...
STAGGER
ズ
STAGGER

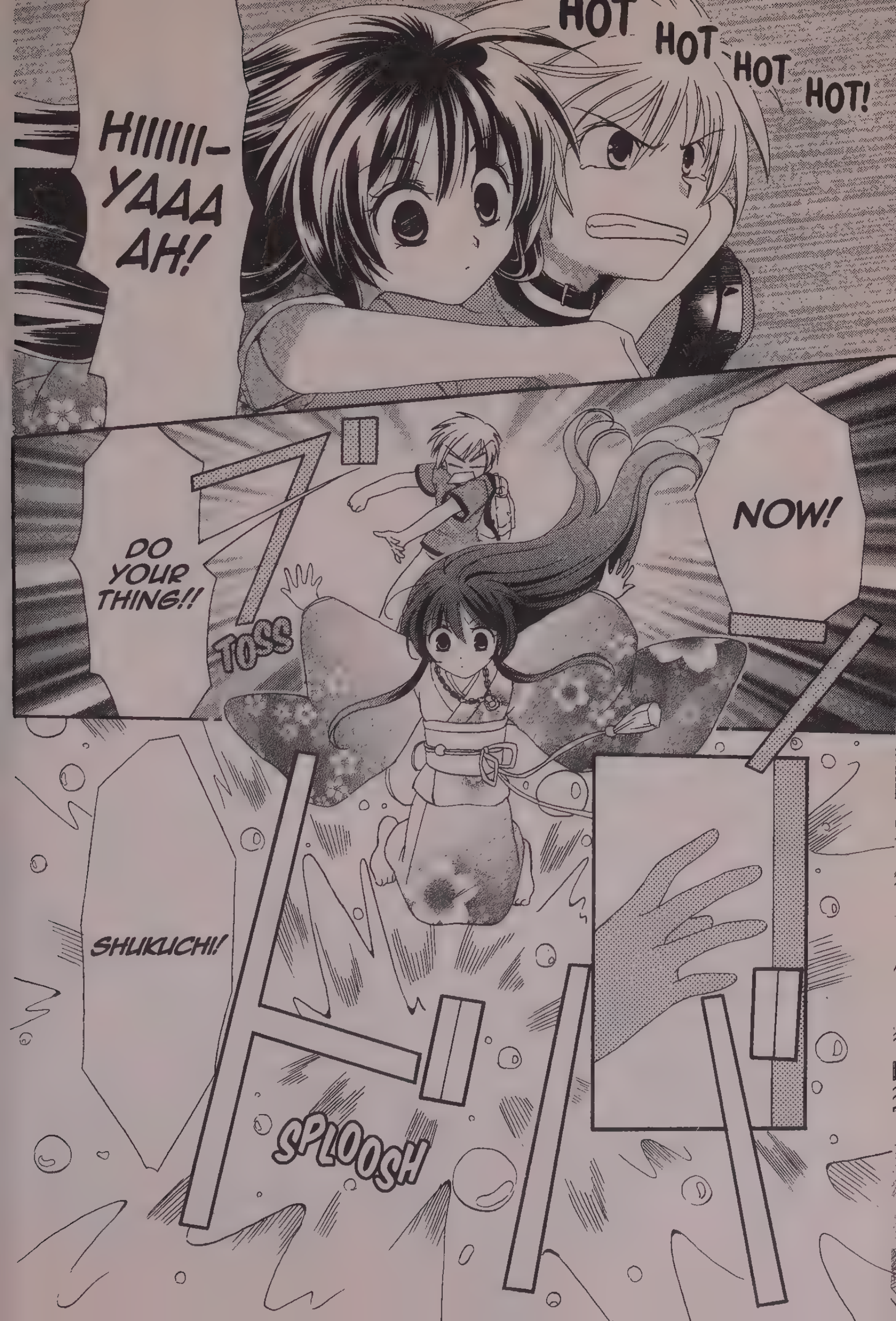

ROOOOOOAR
オオオオ
MWAAAAAAAH!

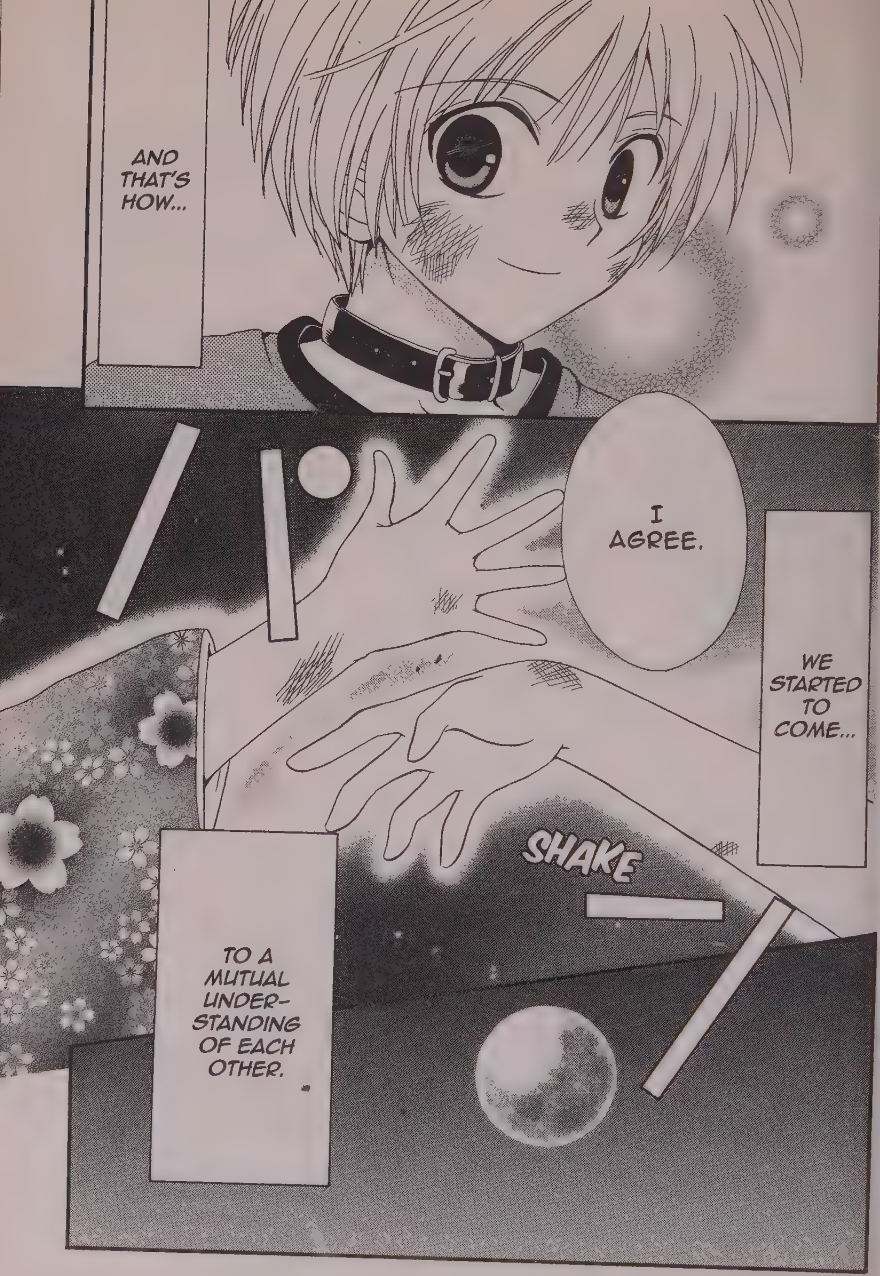

DAI-
JAEN!

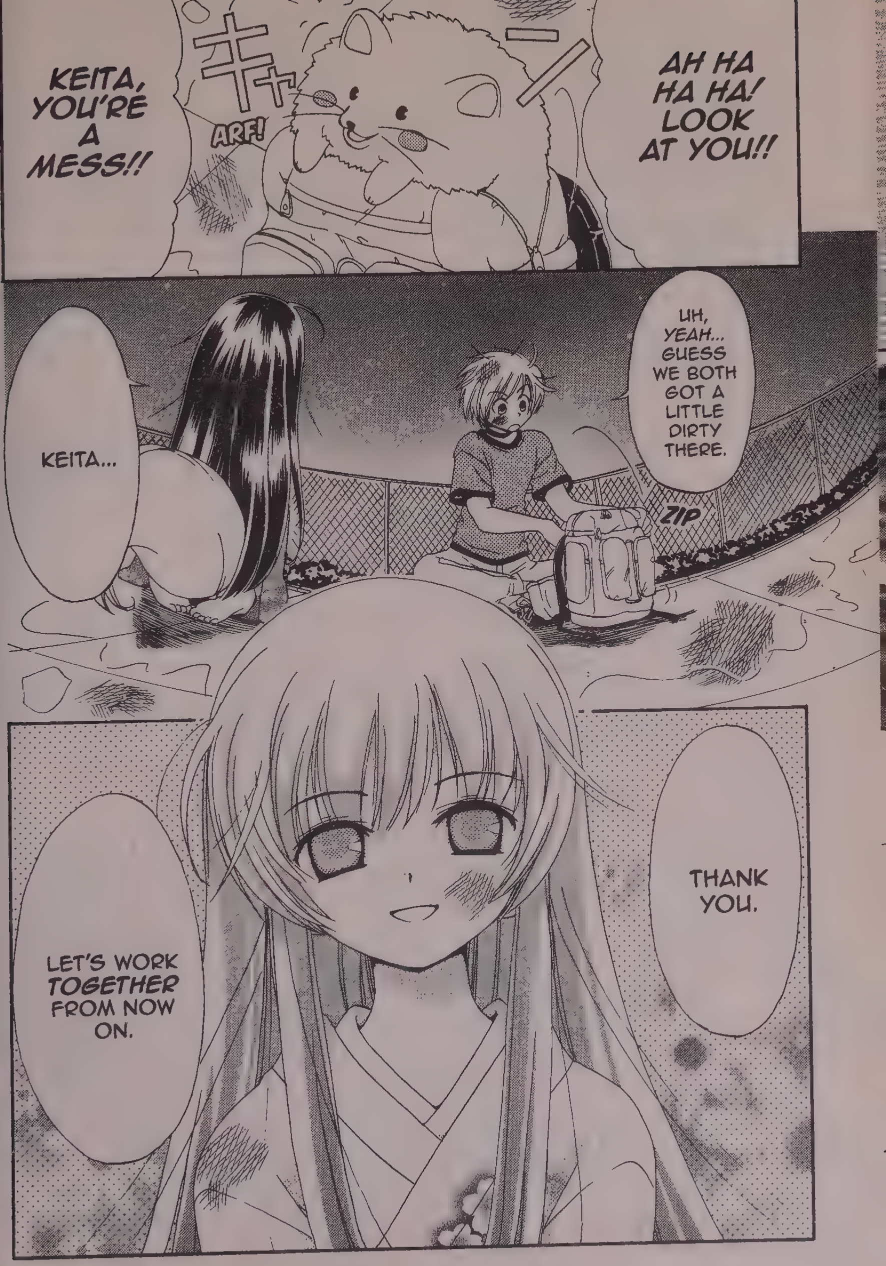

ゴオオオ
I DON'T LIKE REALLY HOT THINGS.
WHOOSH
PANIC
AND YOU THINK I DO?!
HMM...
WAIT.
YOU'RE SAYING YOU CAN'T USE *SHUKUCHI*...
AT ALL?
SOMETIMES IT HELPS IF I CAN *TOUCH* WHAT I NEED TO BRING.
TOUCH IT, HUH?
WELL, ONE WATER TANK, COMIN' RIGHT UP!
HANG ON TIGHT!
ダッ
DASH

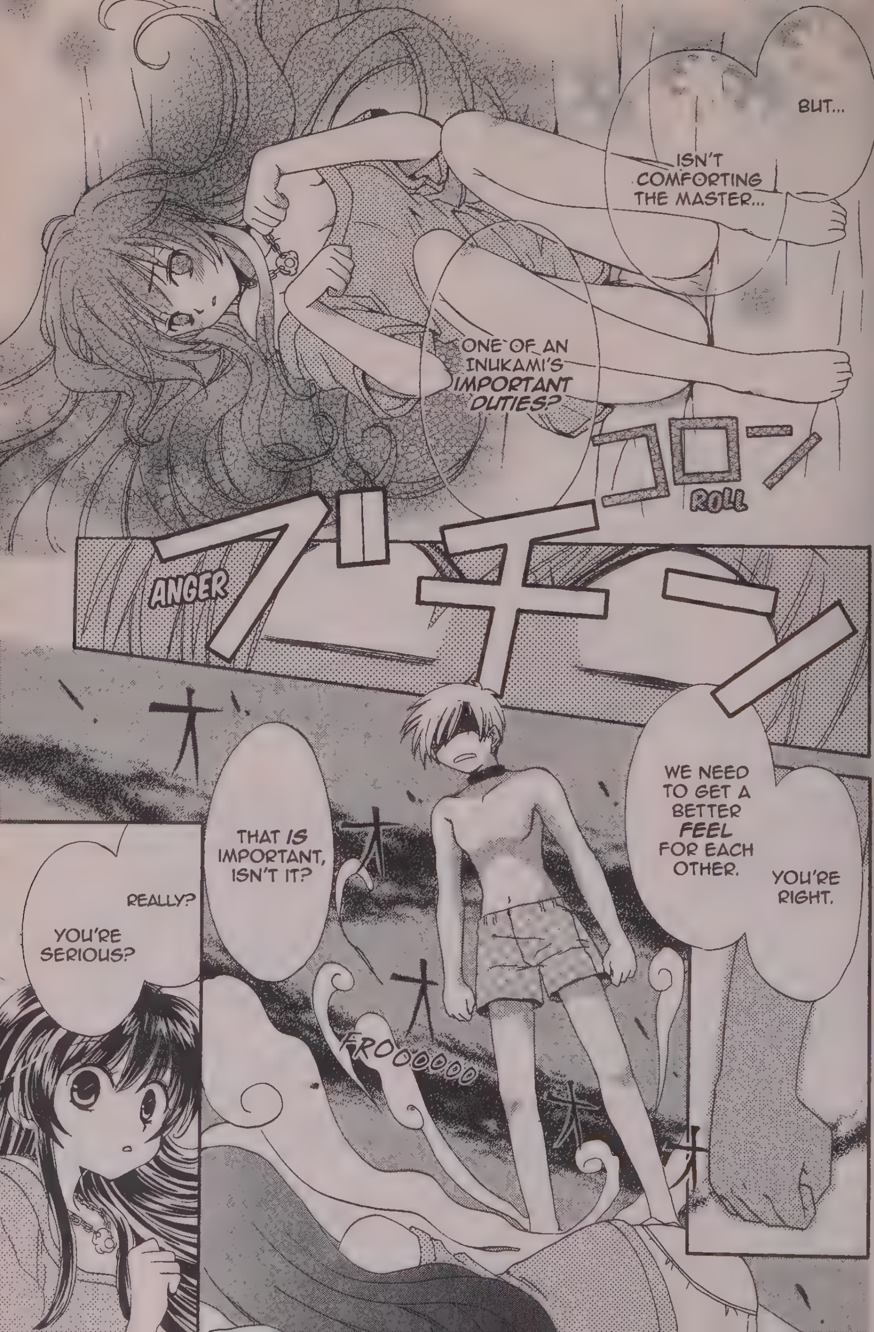

PIECE OF CAKE!
YOU JERK!
NOW THERE'S A FIRE!
NO PROB! I'LL JUST BRING SOME WATER!
SHUKUCHI...
グラ
STAGGER
HEY!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
UM... HEH HEH HEH...
IT LOOKS LIKE I JUST USED UP ALL MY ENERGY.

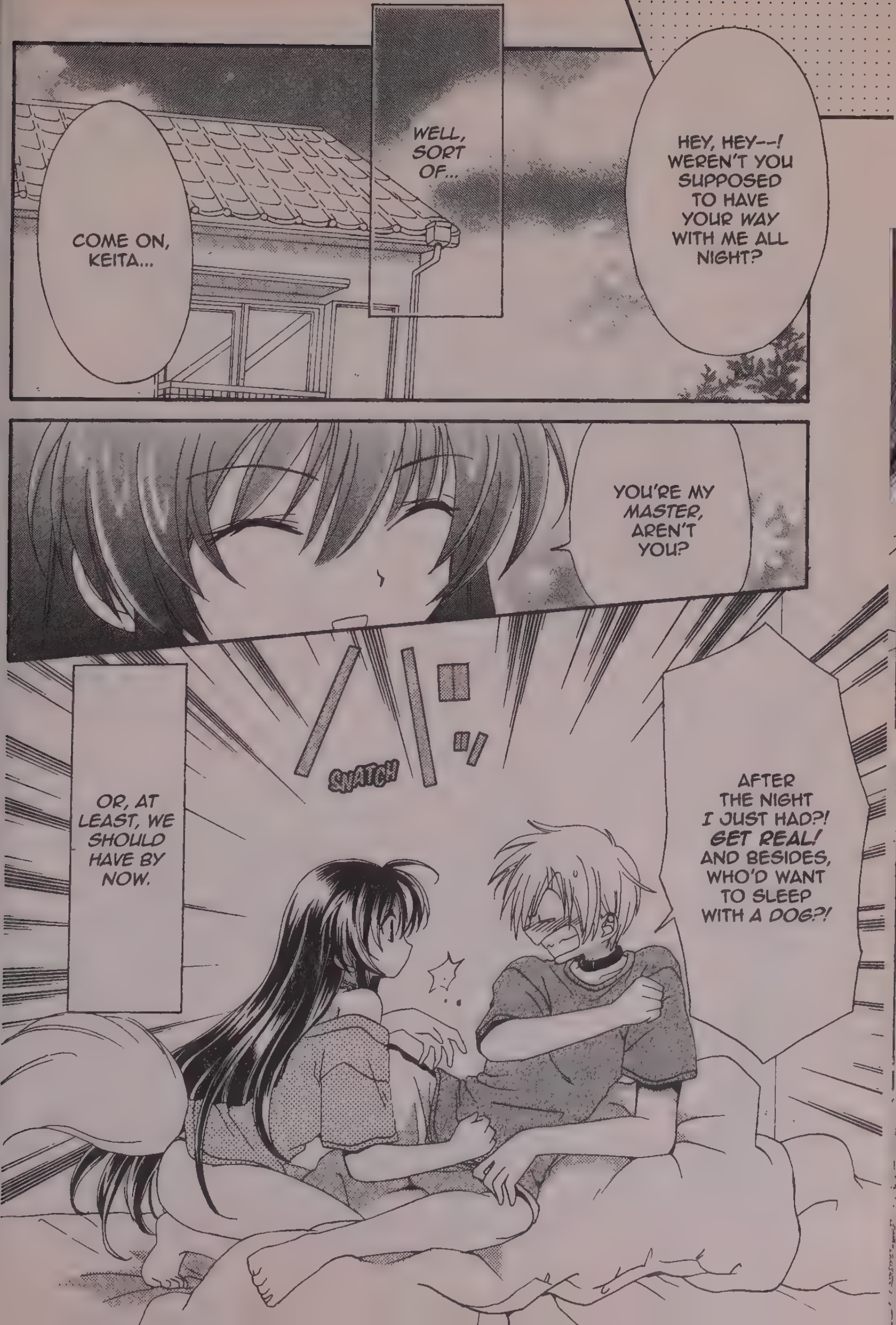

HAHHH...
WE'RE ALIVE...
CLAP
CLAP
HEE HEE HEE! KEITA, YOU WERE... GREAT.
YOU TOO.
ムク
SIT UP
AH...
HEE HEE.

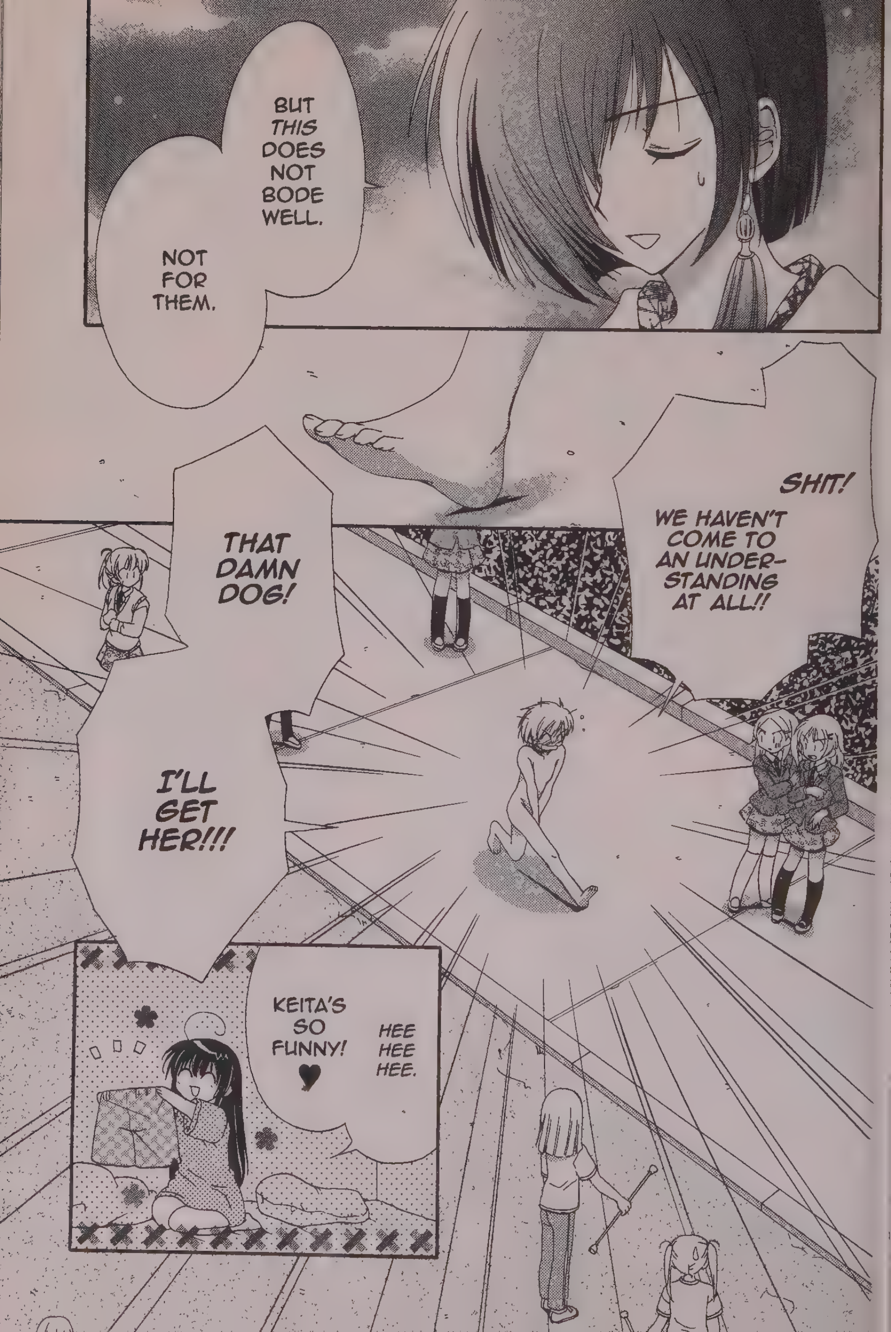

HOT HOT HOT HOT!
HIIIIII-YAAAAH!
NOW!
DO YOUR THING!!
TOSS
SHUKUCHI!
SPLOOSH

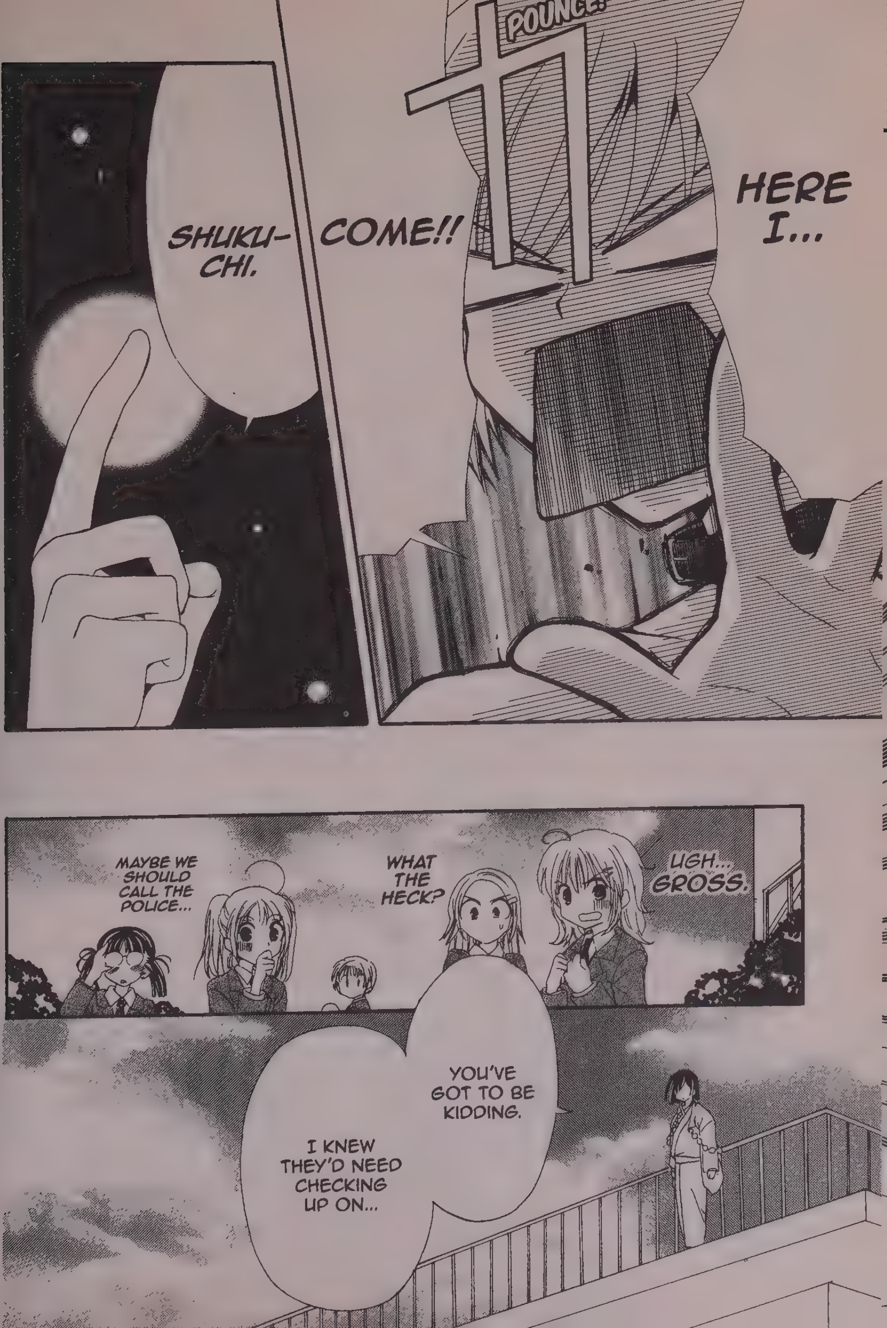

AND THAT'S HOW...
I AGREE.
WE STARTED TO COME...
SHAKE
TO A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER.

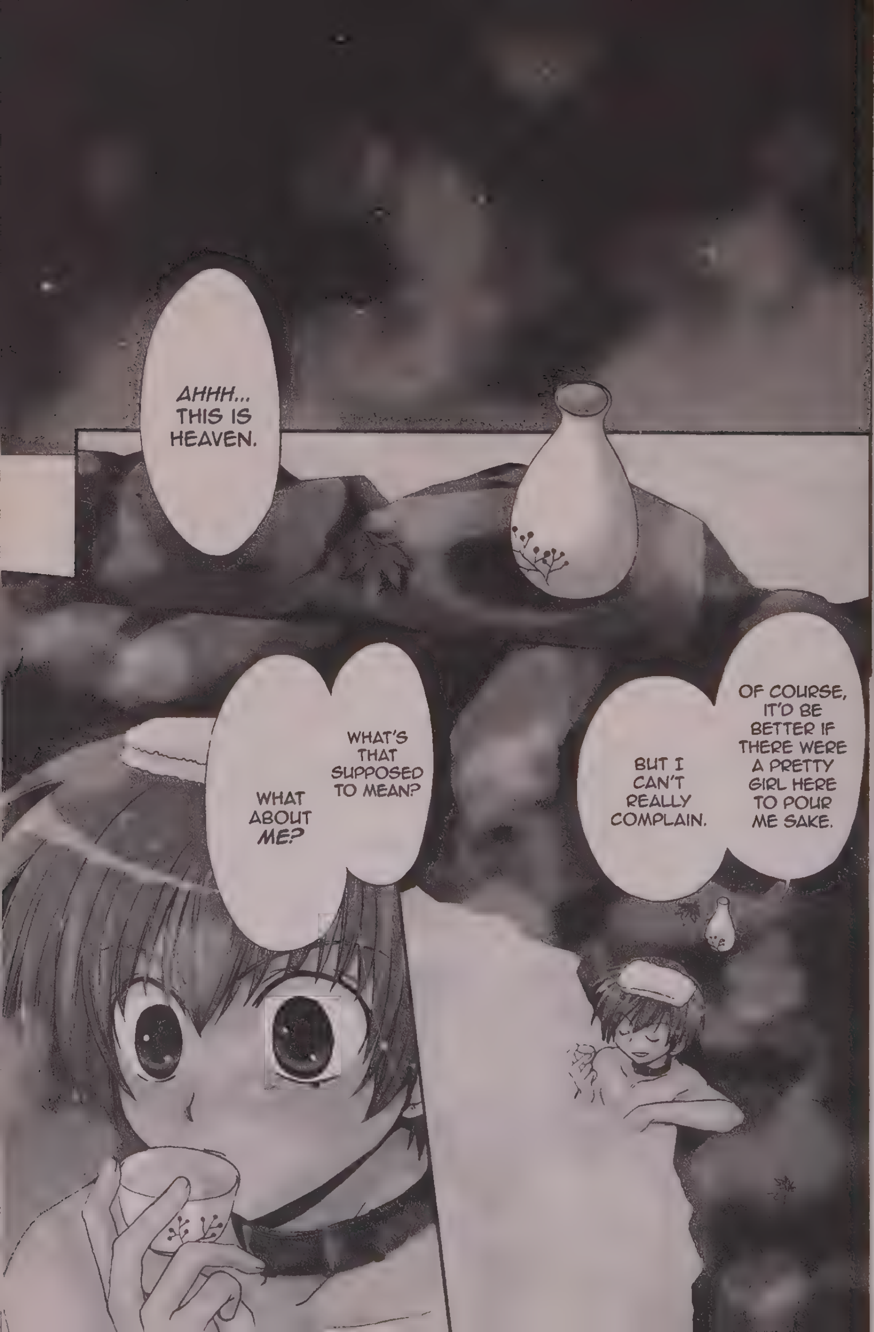

AH HA HA HA! LOOK AT YOU!!
キャ
ARF!
KEITA, YOU'RE A MESS!!
UH, YEAH... GUESS WE BOTH GOT A LITTLE DIRTY THERE.
ZIP
KEITA...
THANK YOU.
LET'S WORK *TOGETHER* FROM NOW ON.

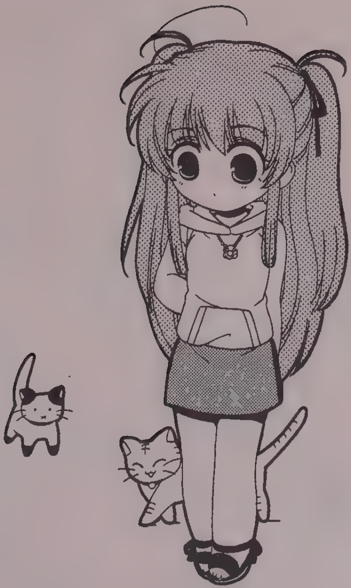

BUT...
ISN'T COMFORTING THE MASTER...
ONE OF AN INUKAMI'S *IMPORTANT* DUTIES?
コローン
ROLL
ブチーン
ANGER
WE NEED TO GET A BETTER *FEEL* FOR EACH OTHER.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THAT *IS* IMPORTANT, ISN'T IT?
オオオオオ
FROOOOOO
REALLY?
YOU'RE SERIOUS?

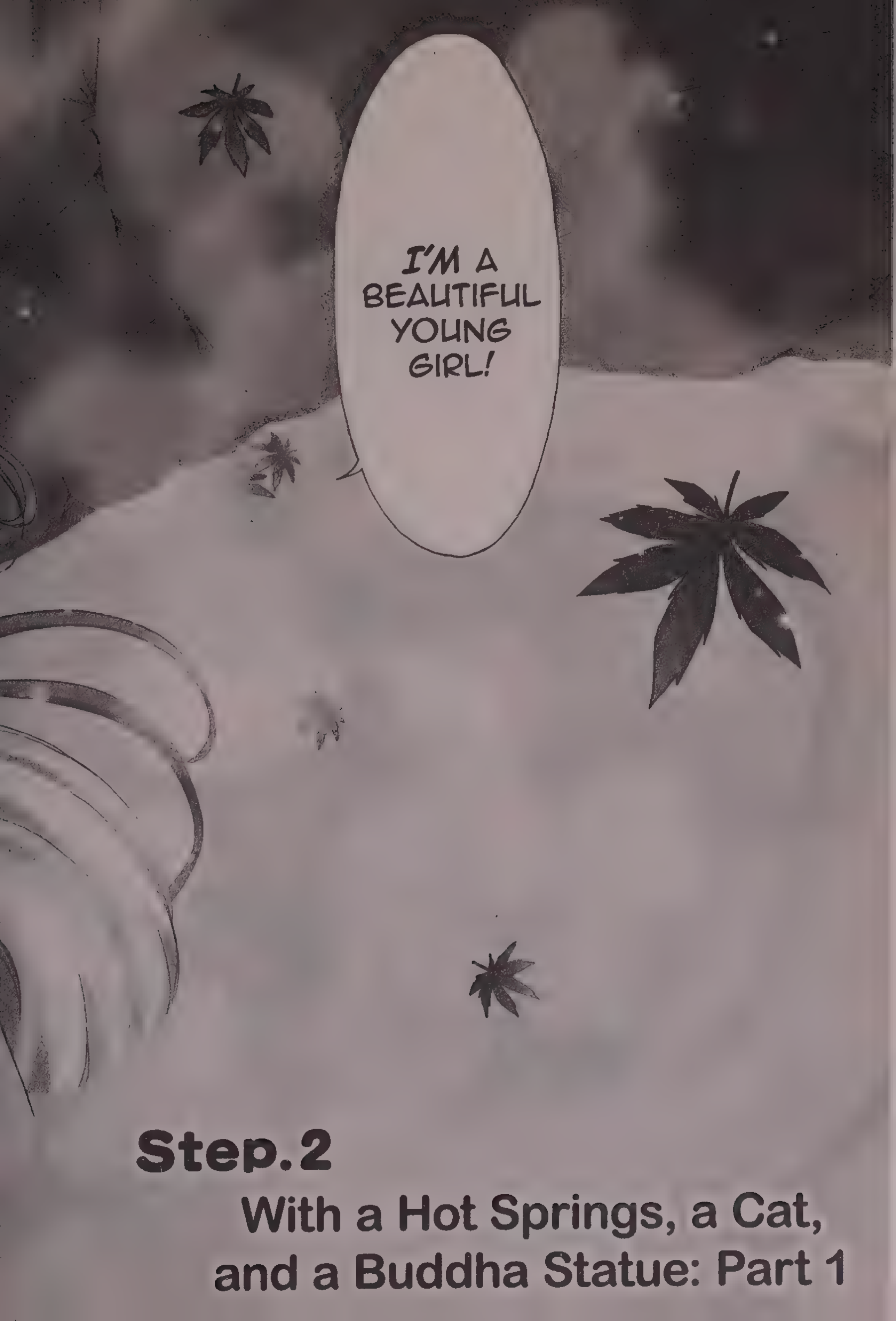

HEY, HEY--! WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO HAVE YOUR WAY WITH ME ALL NIGHT?
WELL, SORT OF...
COME ON, KEITA...
YOU'RE MY *MASTER,* AREN'T YOU?
SNATCH
AFTER THE NIGHT I JUST HAD?! **GET REAL!** AND BESIDES, WHO'D WANT TO SLEEP WITH A *DOG?!*
OR, AT LEAST, WE SHOULD HAVE BY NOW.


BUT THIS DOES NOT BODE WELL.
NOT FOR THEM.
SHIT!
WE HAVEN'T COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING AT ALL!!
THAT DAMN DOG!
I'LL GET HER!!!
KEITA'S SO FUNNY! ♥
HEE HEE HEE.


POUNCE!
HERE I...
COME!!
SHUKU-CHI.
UGH... GROSS.
WHAT THE HECK?
MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL THE POLICE...
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.
I KNEW THEY'D NEED CHECKING UP ON...

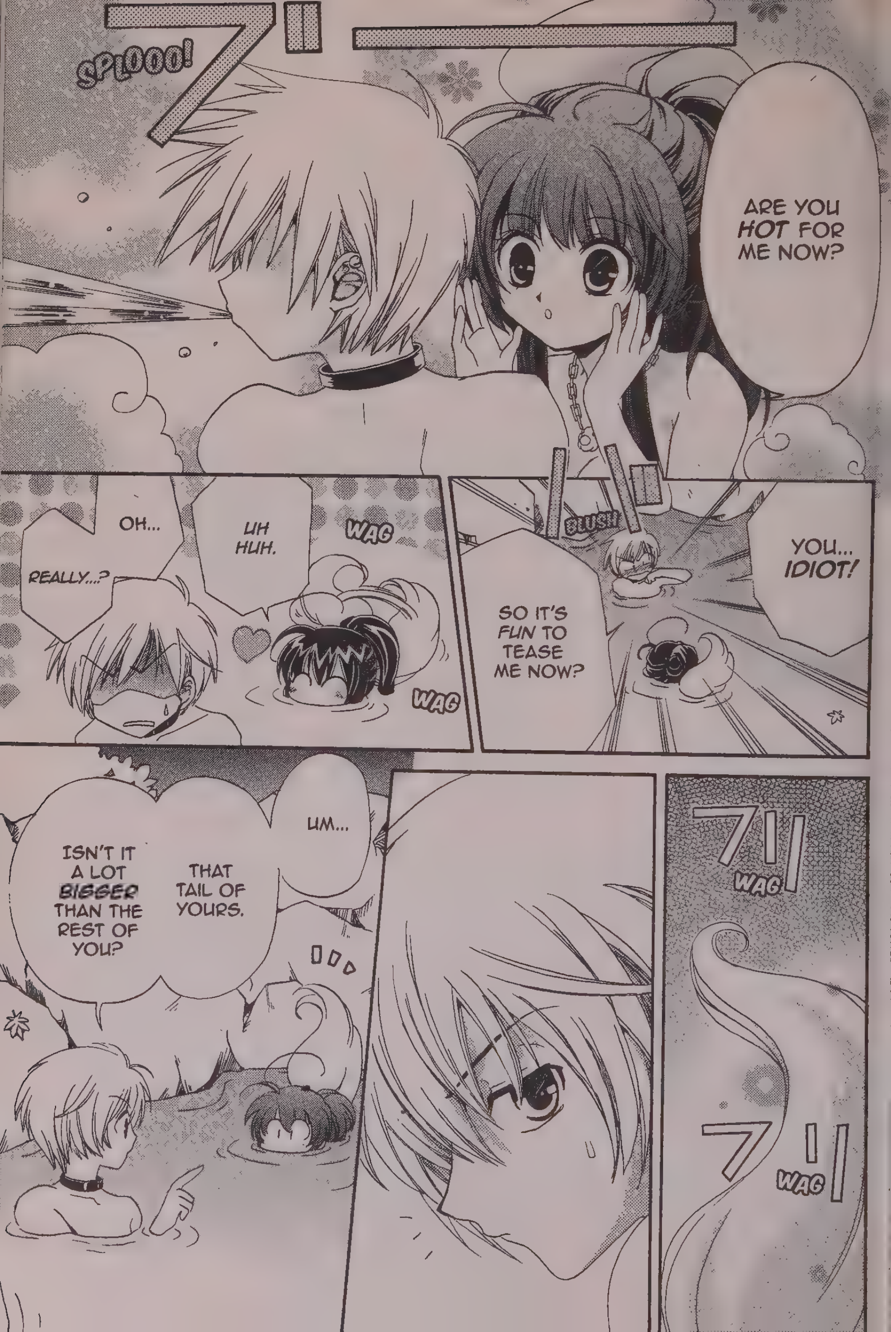

AHHH... THIS IS HEAVEN.
OF COURSE, IT'D BE BETTER IF THERE WERE A PRETTY GIRL HERE TO POUR ME SAKE.
BUT I CAN'T REALLY COMPLAIN.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
WHAT ABOUT *ME?*

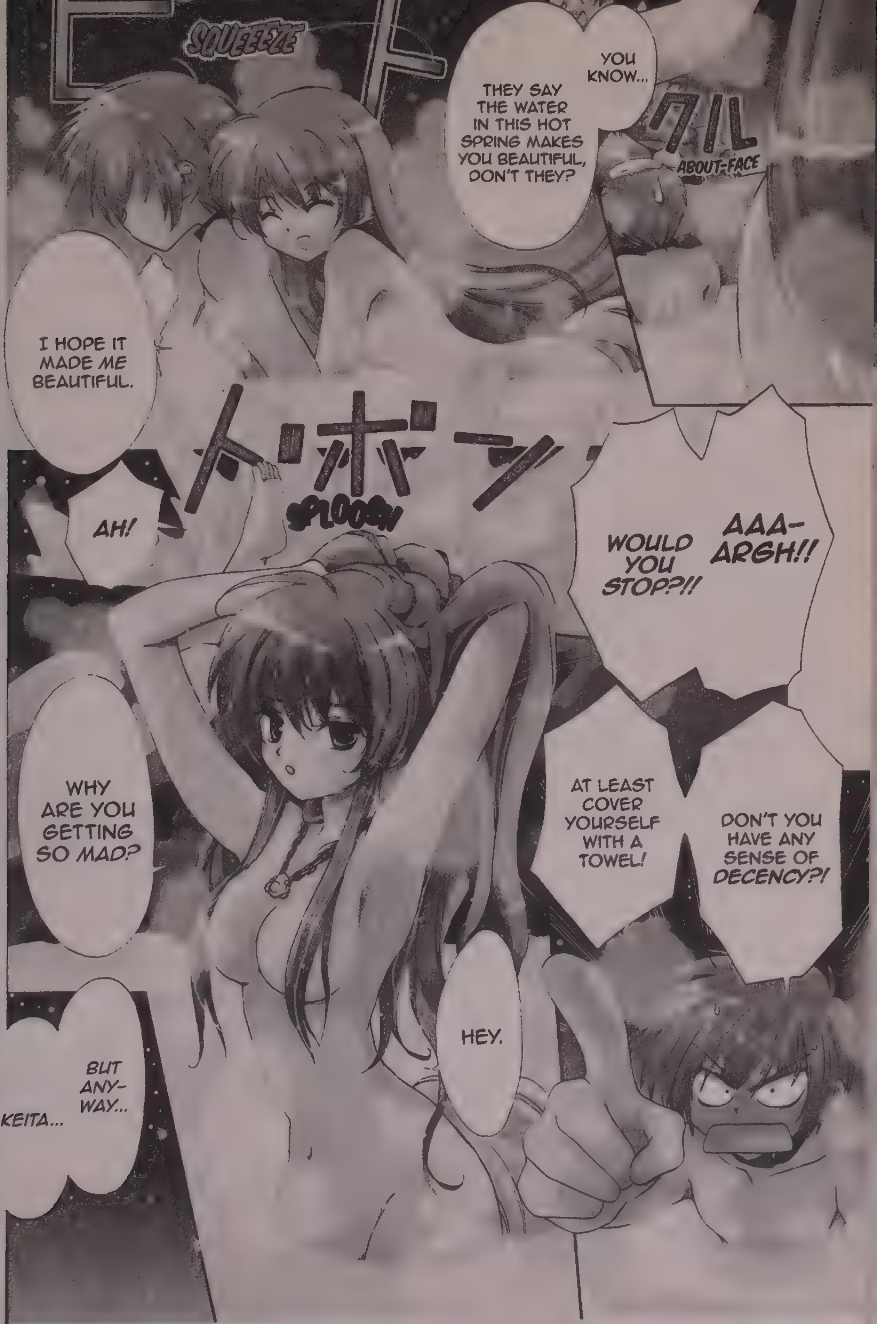


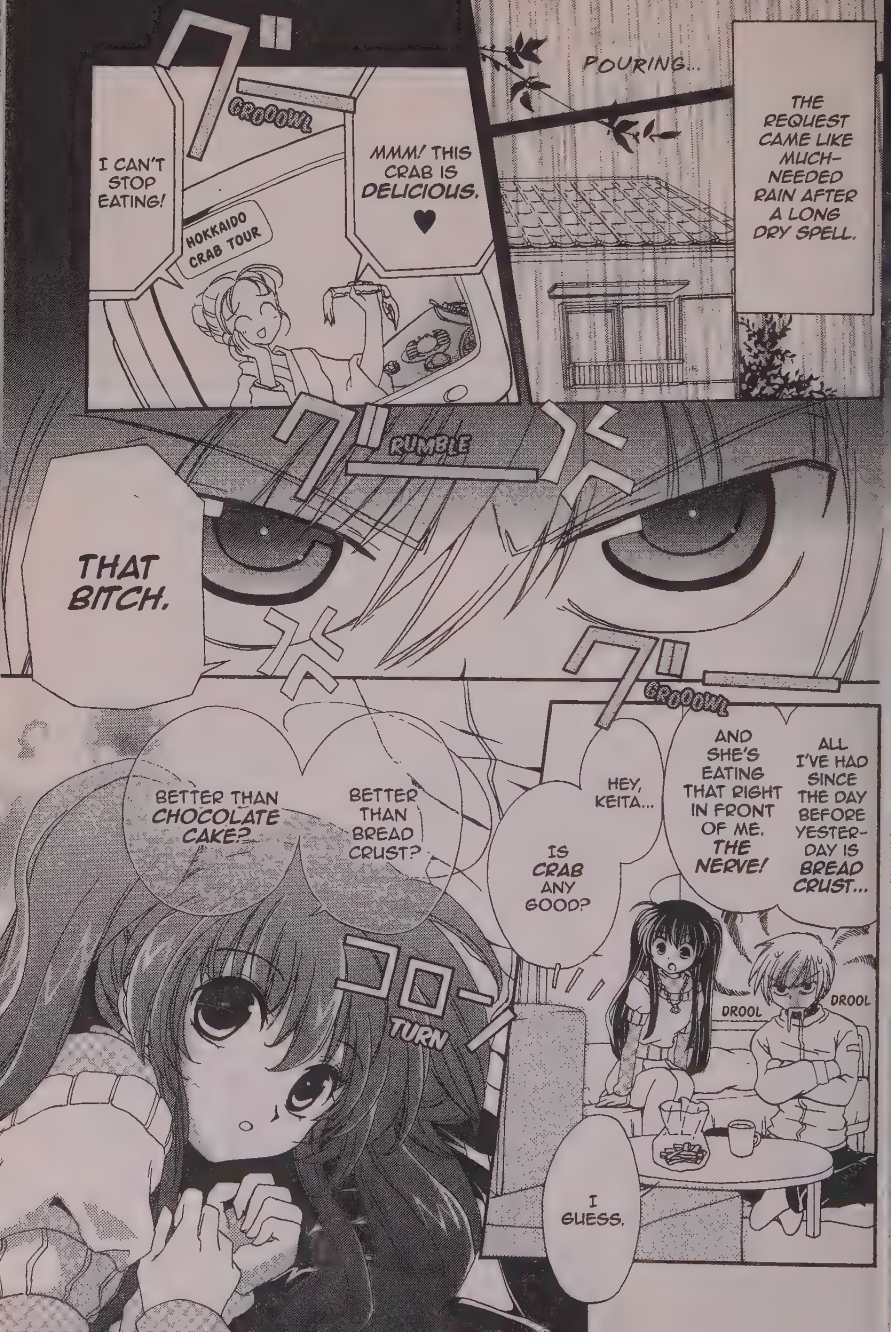

I'M A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRL!

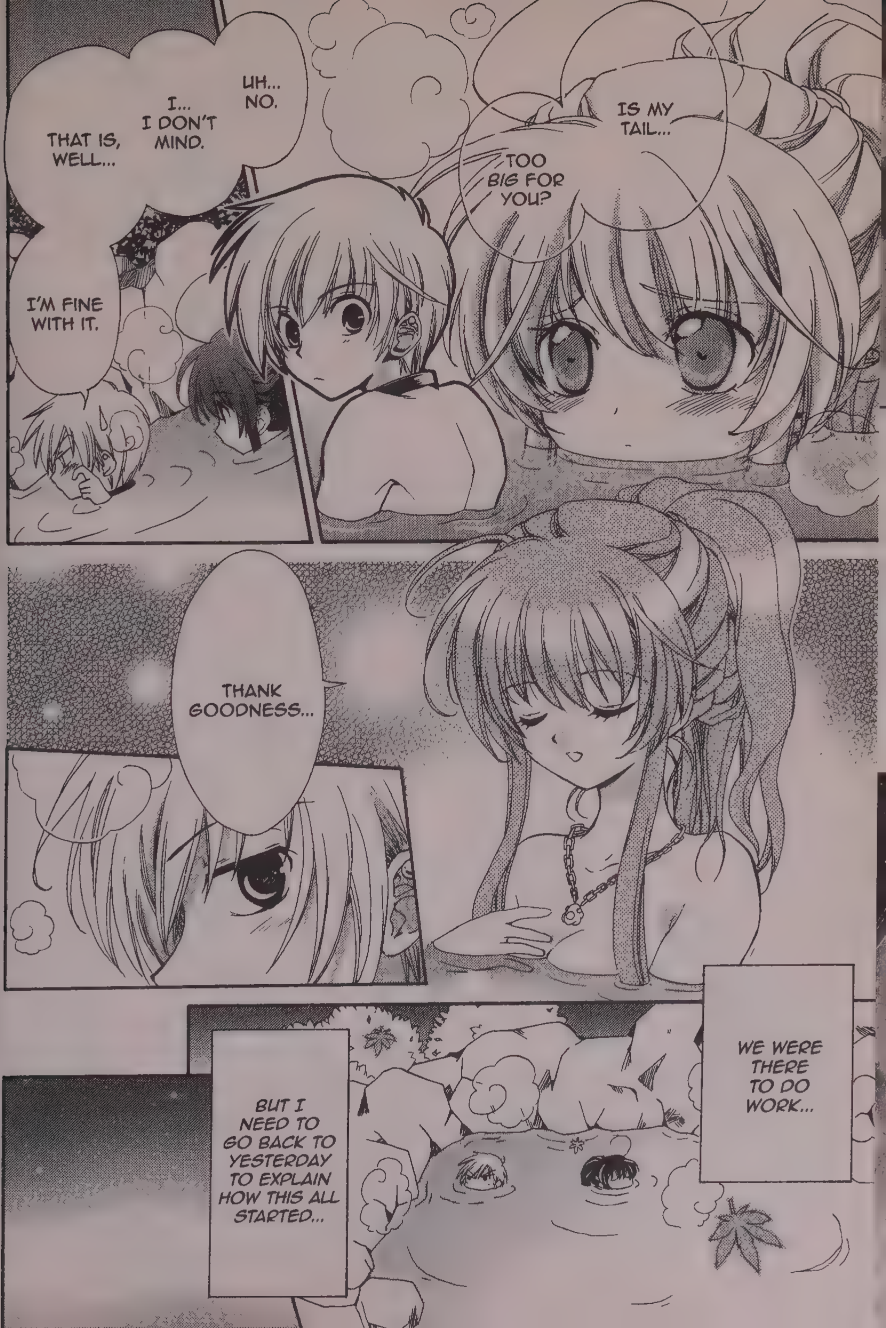
Step.2

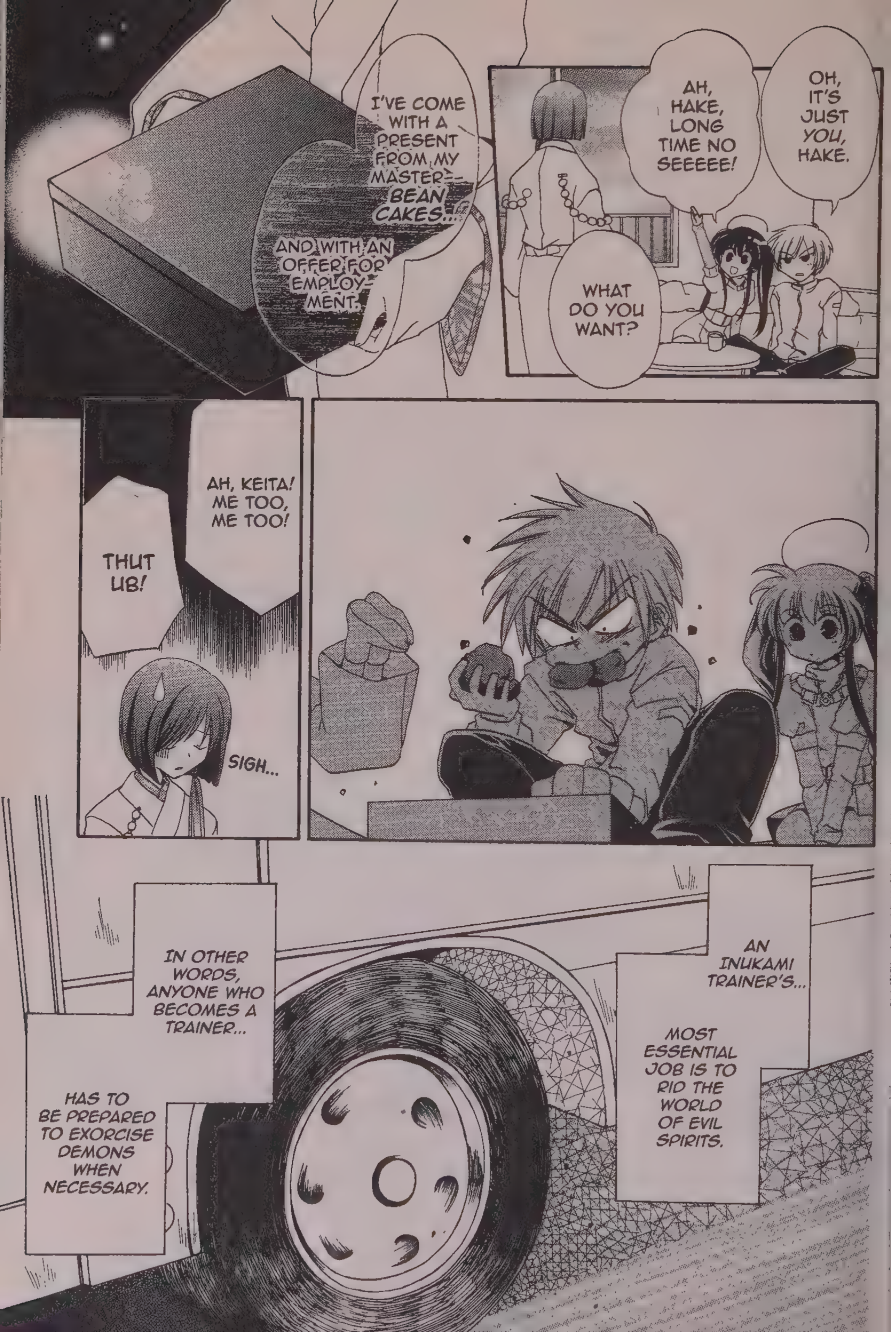
With a Hot Springs, a Cat, and a Buddha Statue: Part 1

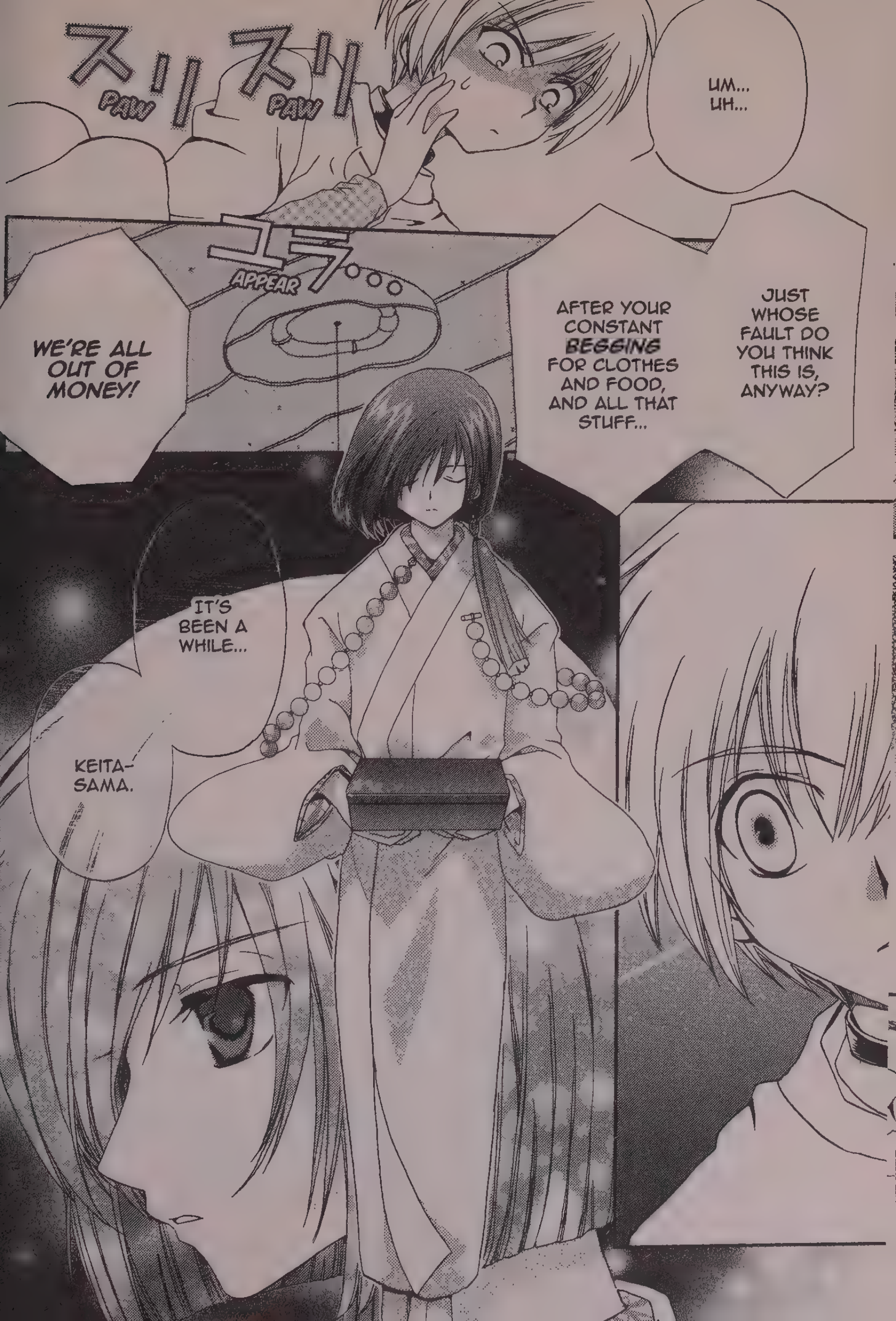

SPLOOO!
ARE YOU *HOT* FOR ME NOW?
YOU... *IDIOT!*
BLUSH
SO IT'S *FUN* TO TEASE ME NOW?
UH HUH.
WAG
WAG
OH...
REALLY...?
WAG
WAG
UM...
THAT TAIL OF YOURS.
ISN'T IT A LOT BIGGER THAN THE REST OF YOU?

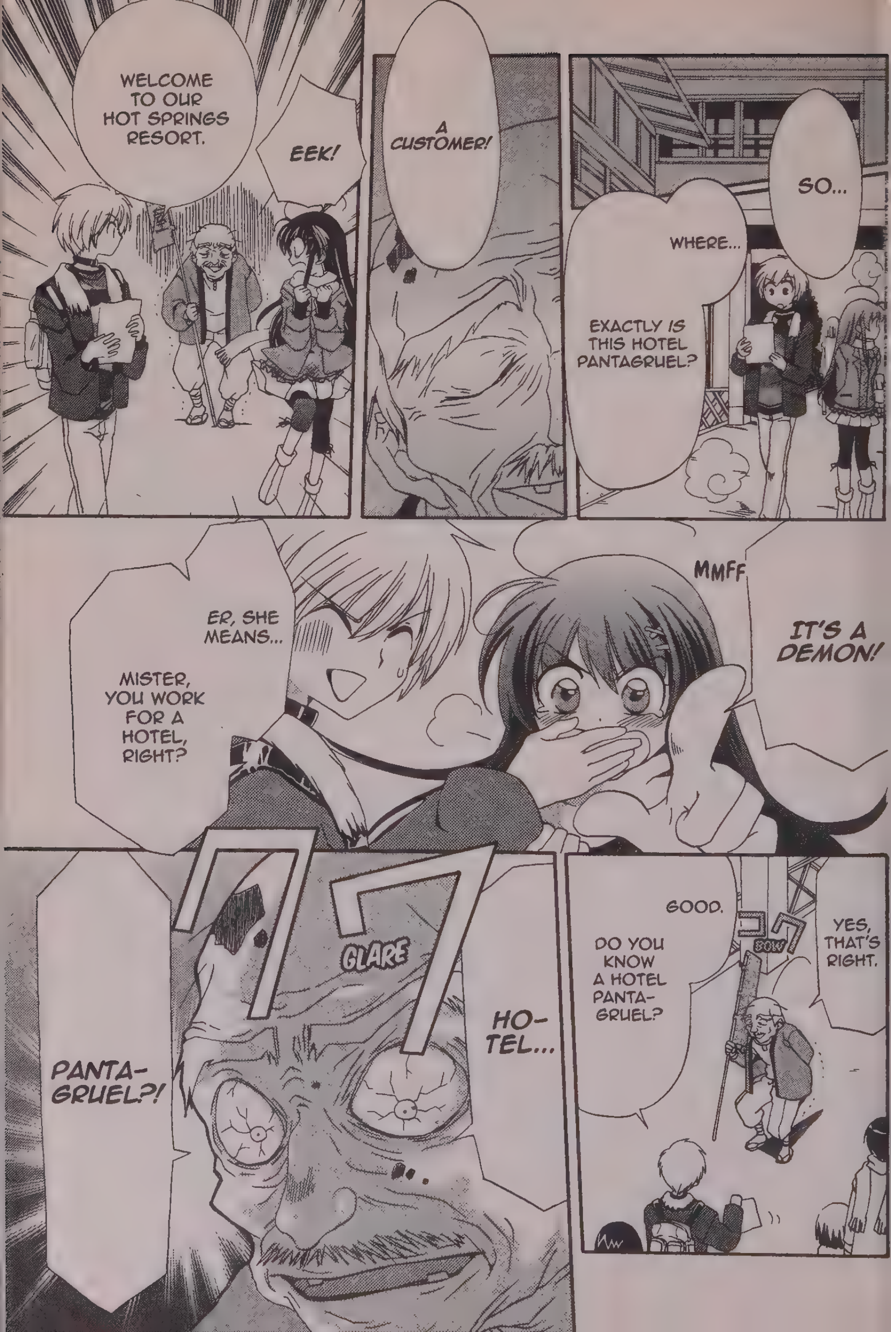

YOU KNOW...
THEY SAY THE WATER IN THIS HOT SPRING MAKES YOU BEAUTIFUL, DON'T THEY?
クル
ABOUT-FACE
SQUEEEEZE
I HOPE IT MADE ME BEAUTIFUL.
AAA-ARGH!!
WOULD YOU STOP?!!
ドボン
SPLOOSH
AH!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF DECENCY?!
AT LEAST COVER YOURSELF WITH A TOWEL!
WHY ARE YOU GETTING SO MAD?
HEY.
BUT ANYWAY...
KEITA...

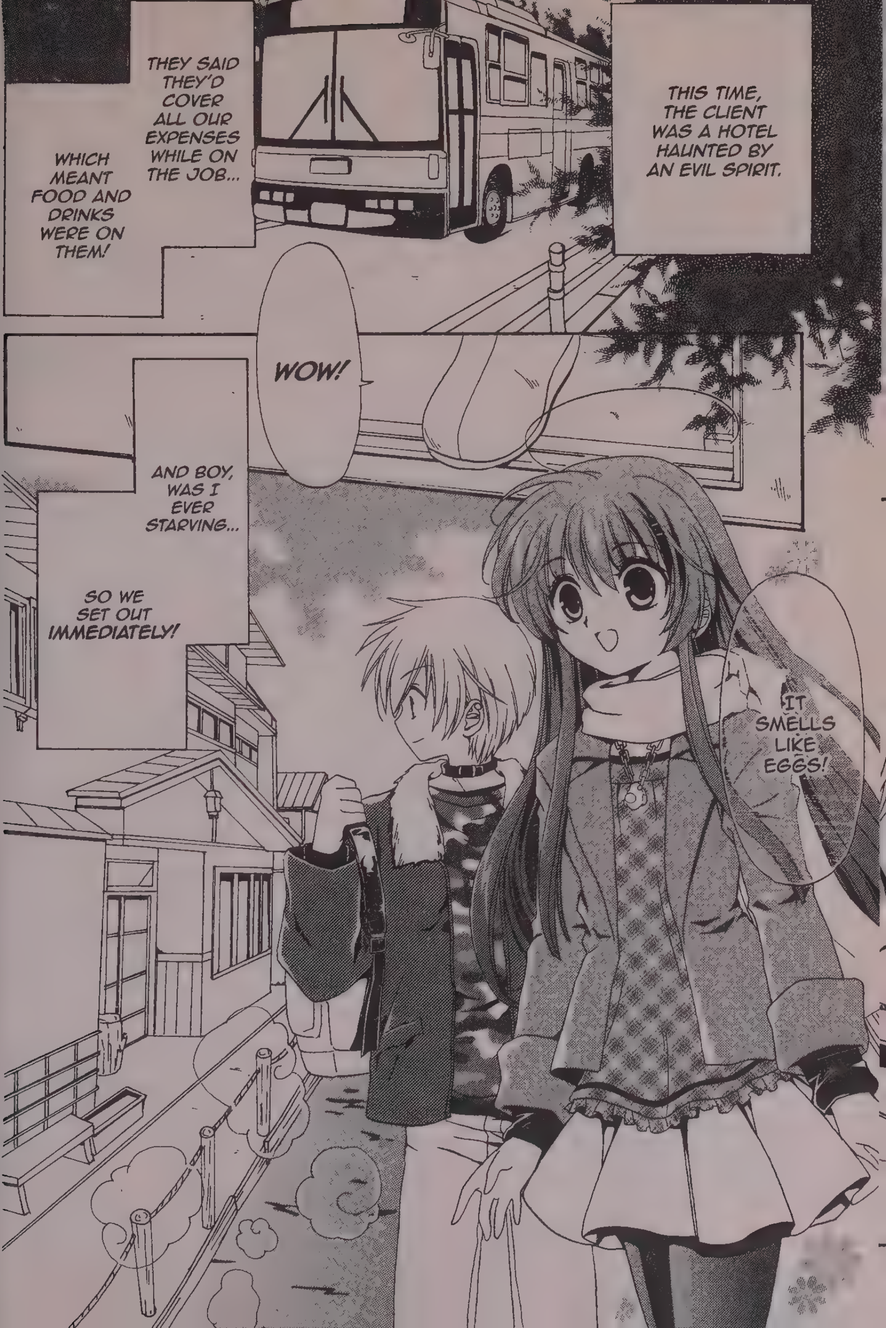

POURING...
THE REQUEST CAME LIKE MUCH-NEEDED RAIN AFTER A LONG DRY SPELL.
MMM! THIS CRAB IS DELICIOUS. ♥
CROOOWL
I CAN'T STOP EATING!
HOKKAIDO CRAB TOUR
RUMBLE
THAT BITCH.
CROOOWL
ALL I'VE HAD SINCE THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY IS BREAD CRUST...
AND SHE'S EATING THAT RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME. THE NERVE!
HEY, KEITA...
IS CRAB ANY GOOD?
DROOL
DROOL
BETTER THAN BREAD CRUST?
BETTER THAN CHOCOLATE CAKE?
TURN
I GUESS.

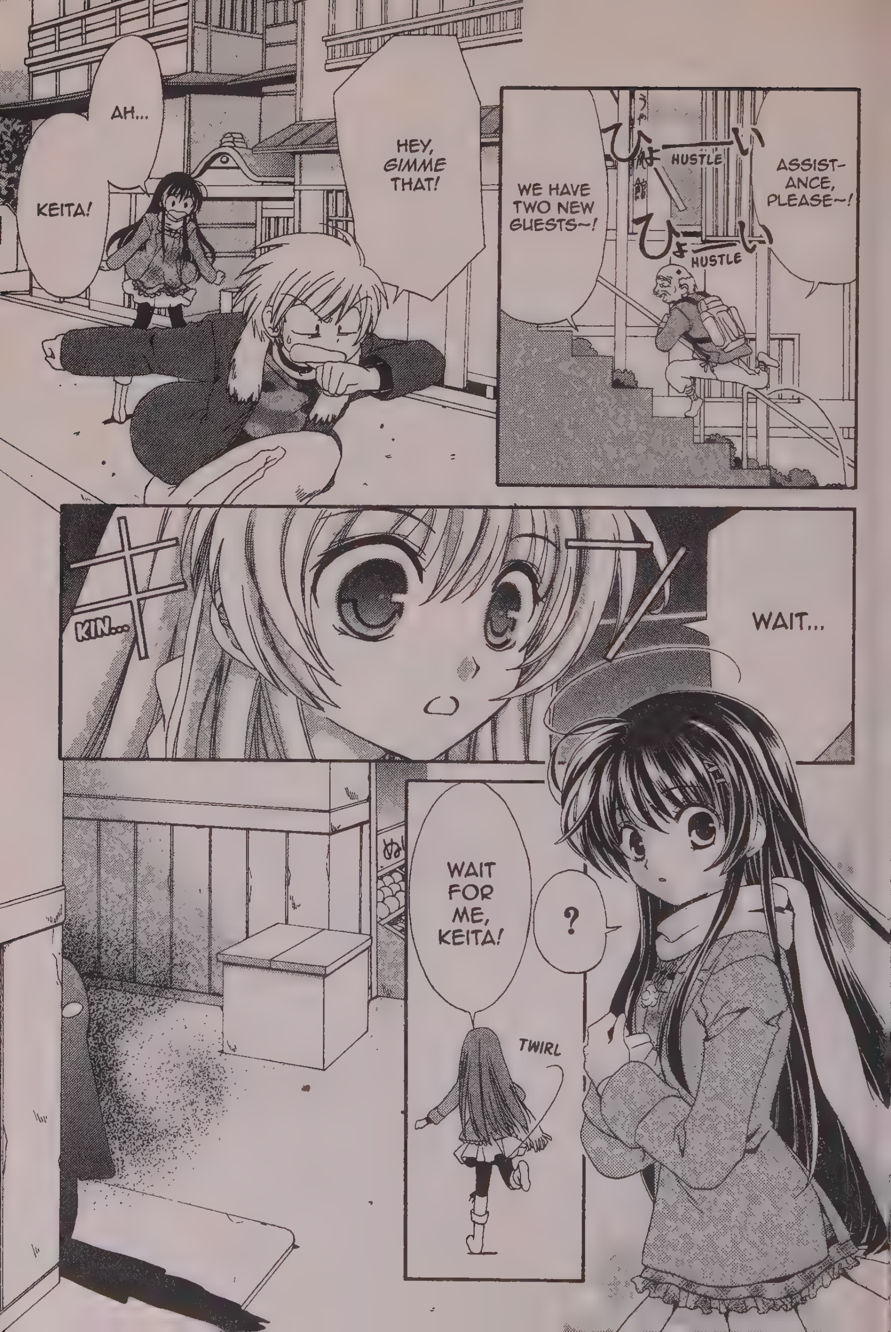

IS MY TAIL...
TOO BIG FOR YOU?
UH... NO.
I... I DON'T MIND.
THAT IS, WELL...
I'M FINE WITH IT.
THANK GOODNESS...
WE WERE THERE TO DO WORK...
BUT I NEED TO GO BACK TO YESTERDAY TO EXPLAIN HOW THIS ALL STARTED...

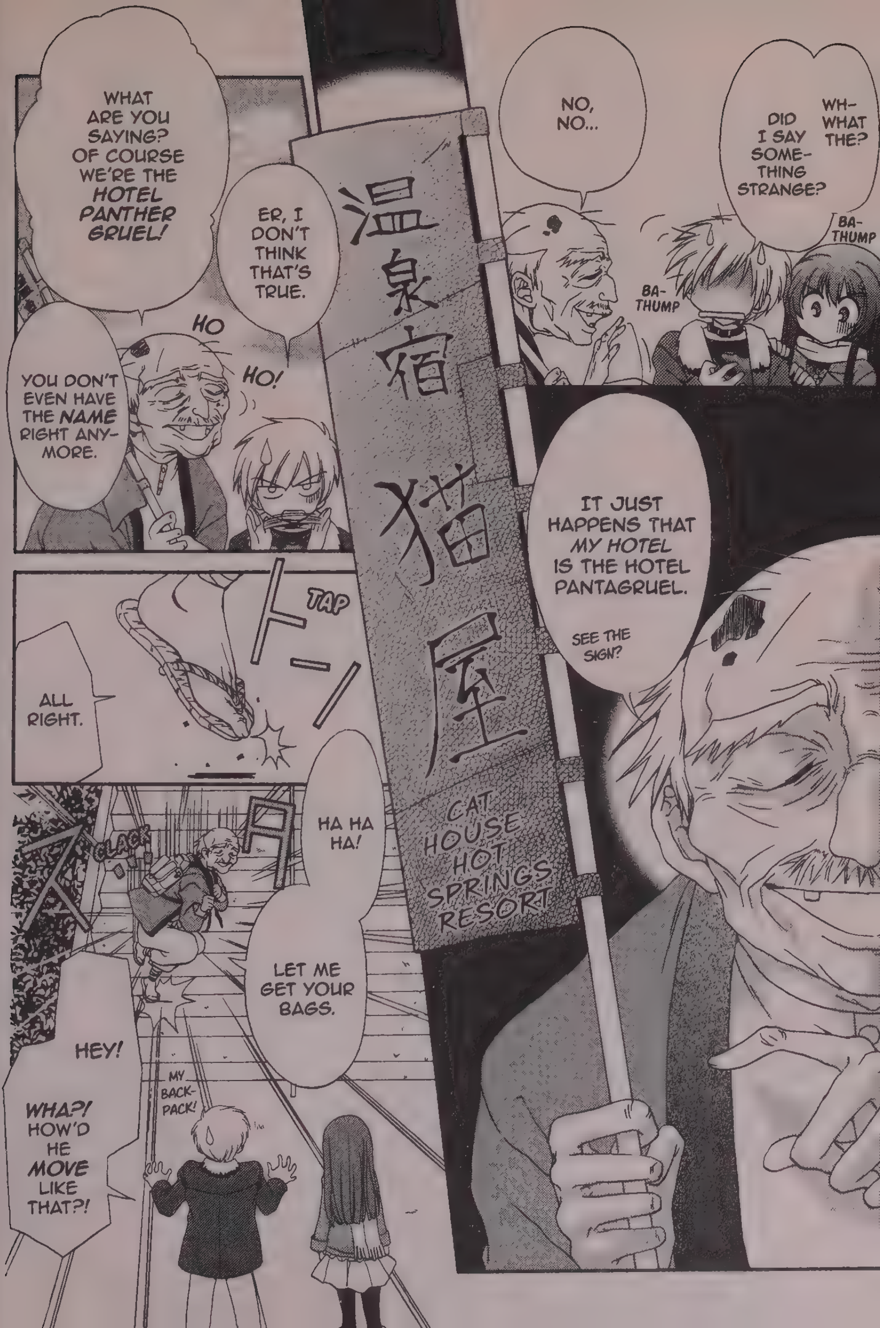

OH, IT'S JUST YOU, HAKE.
AH, HAKE, LONG TIME NO SEEEEEE!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I'VE COME WITH A PRESENT FROM MY MASTER-- BEAN CAKES...
AND WITH AN OFFER FOR EMPLOYMENT.
AH, KEITA! ME TOO, ME TOO!
THUT UB!
SIGH...
AN INUKAMI TRAINER'S...
MOST ESSENTIAL JOB IS TO RID THE WORLD OF EVIL SPIRITS.
IN OTHER WORDS, ANYONE WHO BECOMES A TRAINER...
HAS TO BE PREPARED TO EXORCISE DEMONS WHEN NECESSARY.

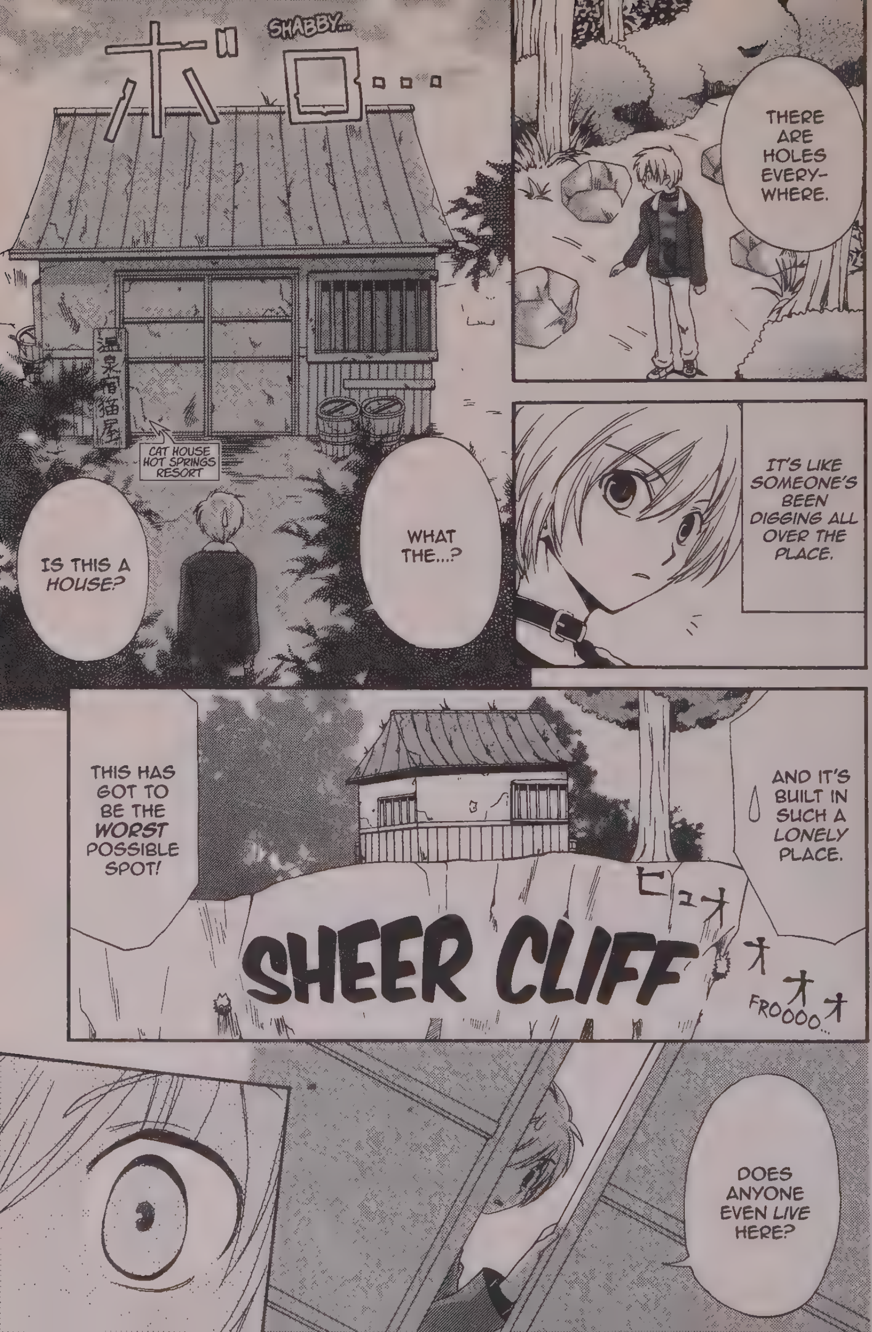

UM... UH...
スリスリ
PAW PAW
JUST WHOSE FAULT DO YOU THINK THIS IS, ANYWAY?
AFTER YOUR CONSTANT BEGGING FOR CLOTHES AND FOOD, AND ALL THAT STUFF...
WE'RE ALL OUT OF MONEY!
ユラ○○○
APPEAR
IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
KEITA-SAMA.

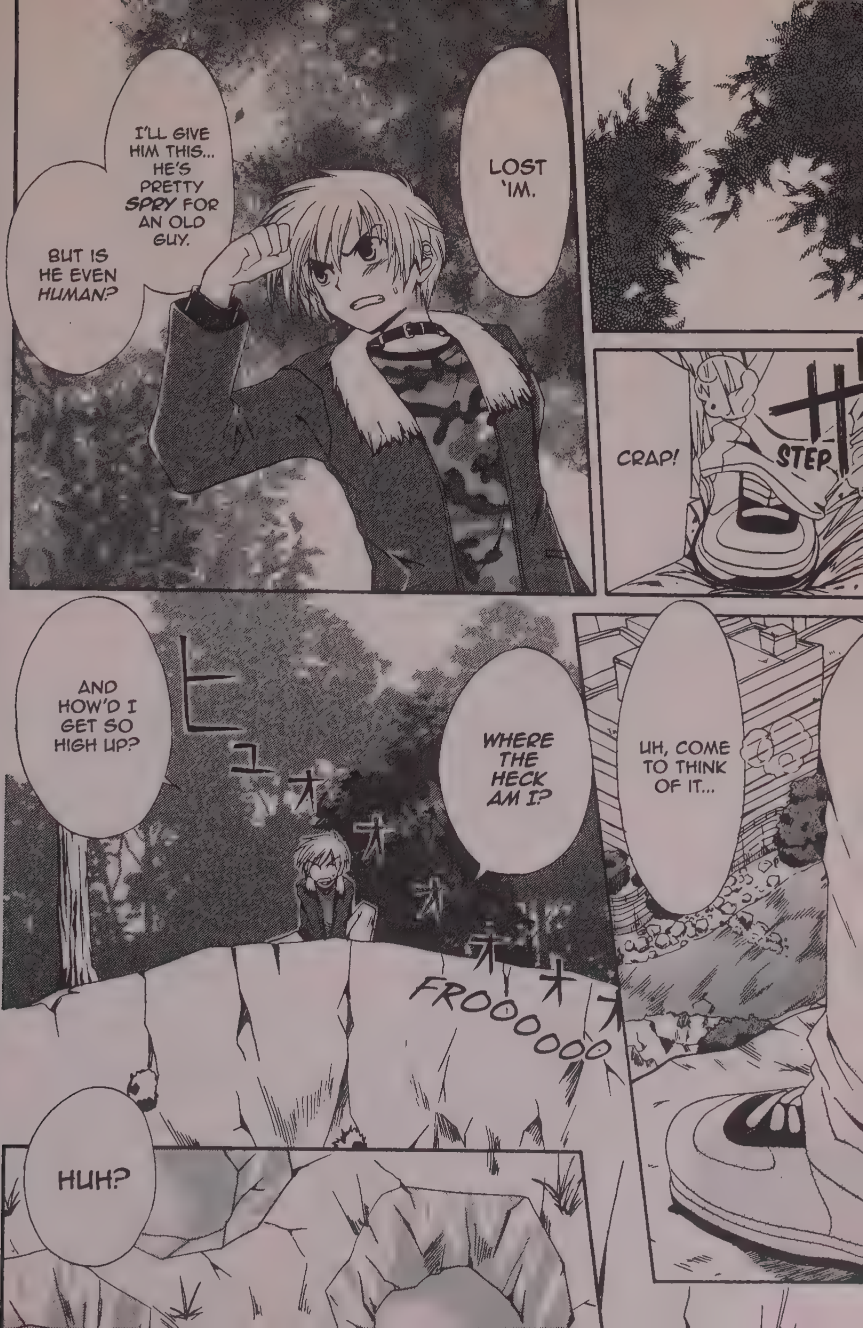

SO...
WHERE...
EXACTLY IS THIS HOTEL PANTAGRUEL?
A CUSTOMER!
EEK!
WELCOME TO OUR HOT SPRINGS RESORT.
IT'S A DEMON!
MMFF
ER, SHE MEANS...
MISTER, YOU WORK FOR A HOTEL, RIGHT?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
SOW
GOOD.
DO YOU KNOW A HOTEL PANTAGRUEL?
HOTEL...
GLARE
PANTAGRUEL?!

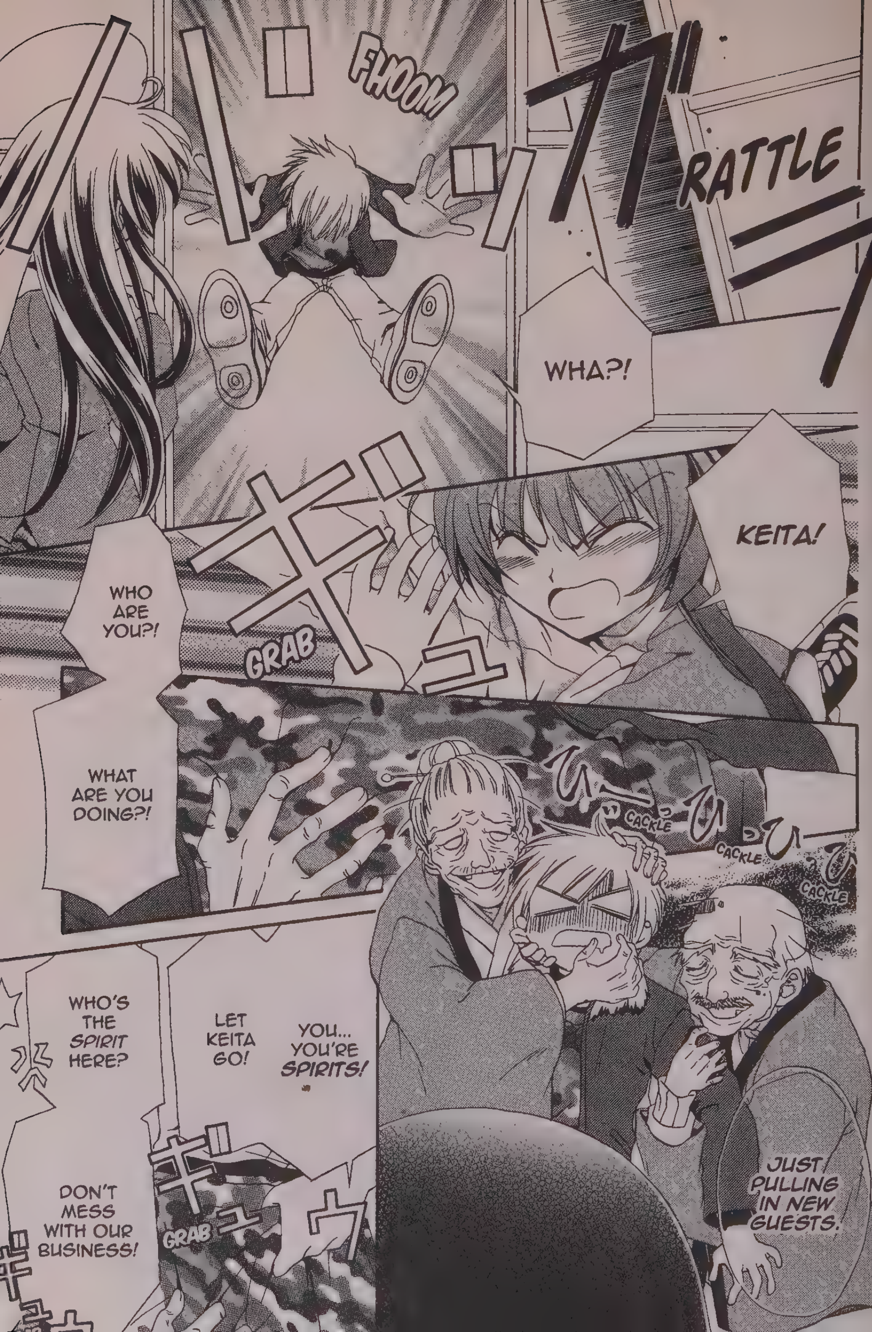

THIS TIME, THE CLIENT WAS A HOTEL HAUNTED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT.
THEY SAID THEY'D COVER ALL OUR EXPENSES WHILE ON THE JOB...
WHICH MEANT FOOD AND DRINKS WERE ON THEM!
WOW!
AND BOY, WAS I EVER STARVING...
SO WE SET OUT IMMEDIATELY!
IT SMELLS LIKE EGGS!

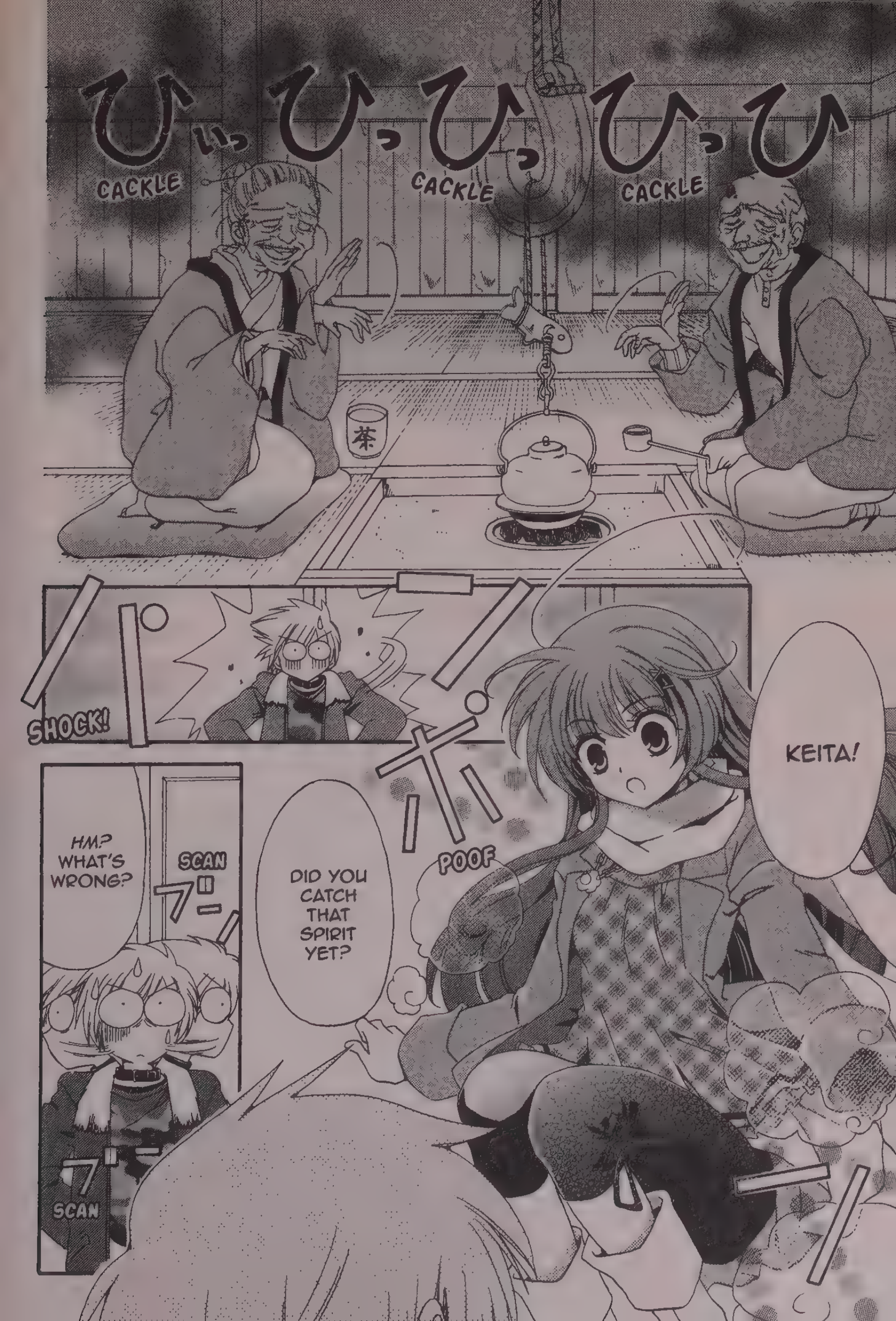

ASSISTANCE, PLEASE~!
ひょーい HUSTLE
ひょーい HUSTLE
WE HAVE TWO NEW GUESTS~!
HEY, GIMME THAT!
AH...
KEITA!
WAIT...
KIN...
?
WAIT FOR ME, KEITA!
TWIRL

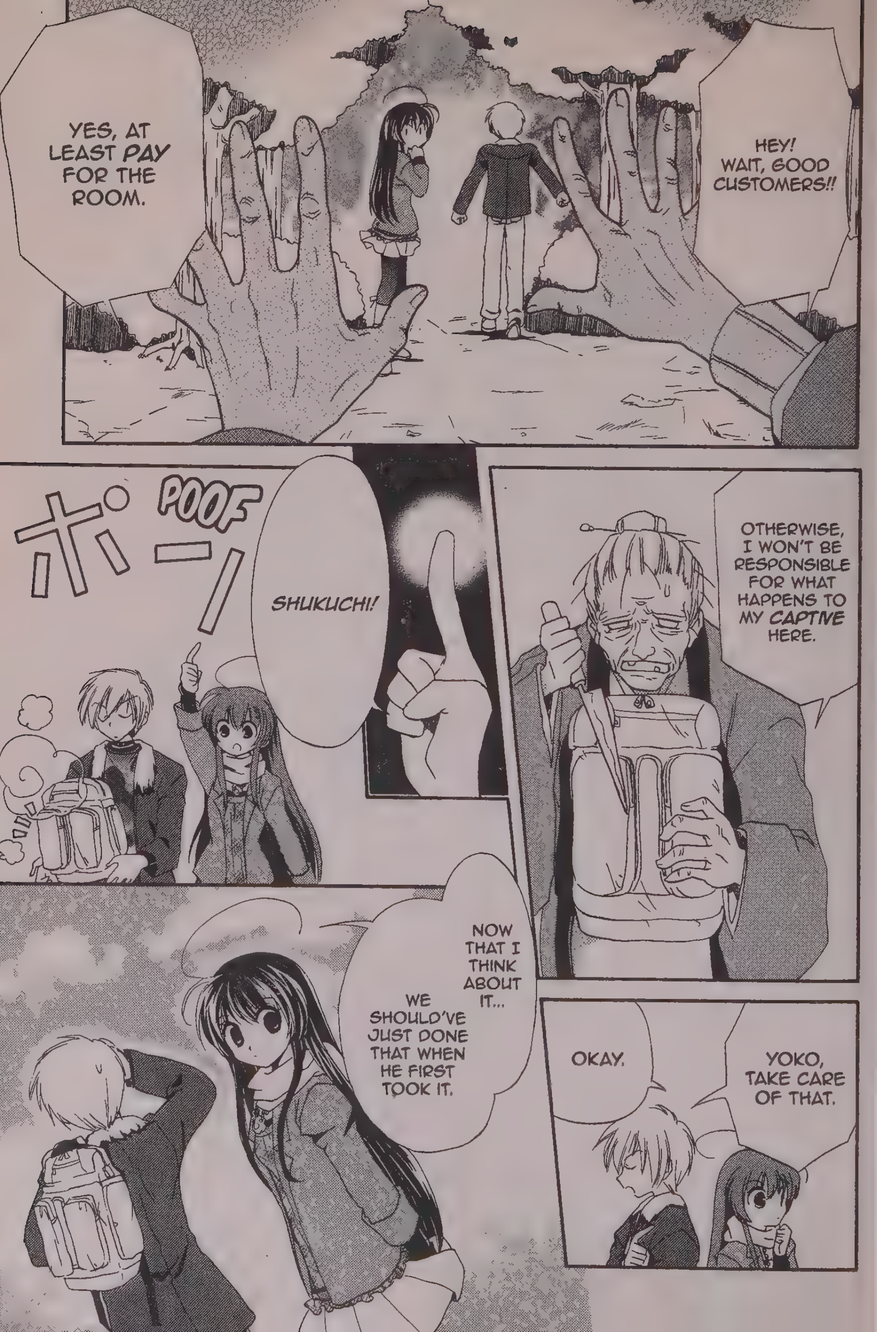

WH- WHAT THE?
DID I SAY SOMETHING STRANGE?
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
NO, NO...
IT JUST HAPPENS THAT MY HOTEL IS THE HOTEL PANTAGRUEL.
SEE THE SIGN?
温泉宿猫屋
CAT HOUSE HOT SPRINGS RESORT
ER, I DON'T THINK THAT'S TRUE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? OF COURSE WE'RE THE HOTEL PANTHER GRUEL!
HO HO!
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE NAME RIGHT ANYMORE.
TAP
ALL RIGHT.
HA HA HA!
LET ME GET YOUR BAGS.
CLACK
MY BACKPACK!
HEY!
WHA?! HOW'D HE MOVE LIKE THAT?!

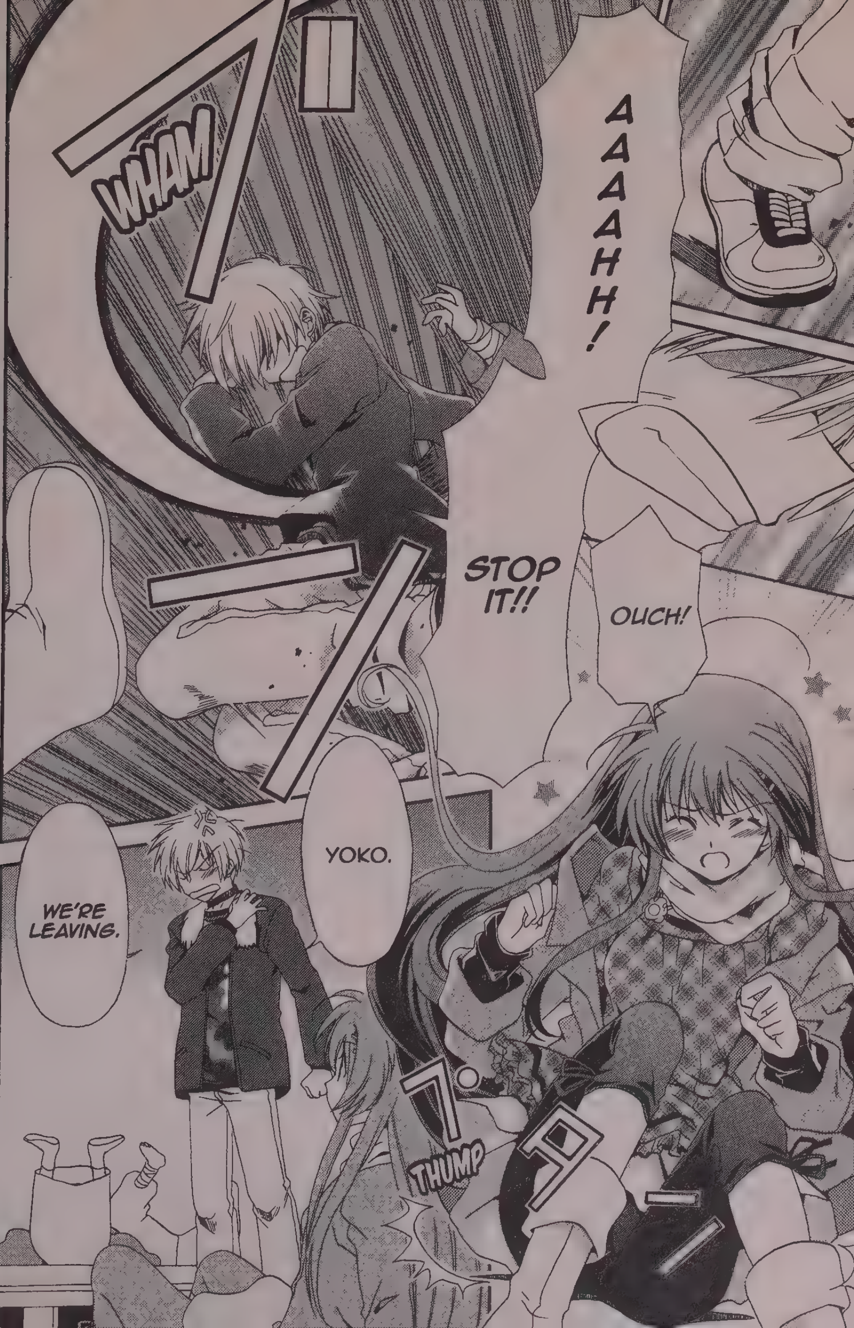

SHABBY...
ボロ…
温泉宿猫屋
CAT HOUSE HOT SPRINGS RESORT
WHAT THE...?
IS THIS A HOUSE?
THERE ARE HOLES EVERYWHERE.
IT'S LIKE SOMEONE'S BEEN DIGGING ALL OVER THE PLACE.
AND IT'S BUILT IN SUCH A LONELY PLACE.
THIS HAS GOT TO BE THE WORST POSSIBLE SPOT!
SHEER CLIFF
ヒュオオオオ
FROOOO...
DOES ANYONE EVEN LIVE HERE?

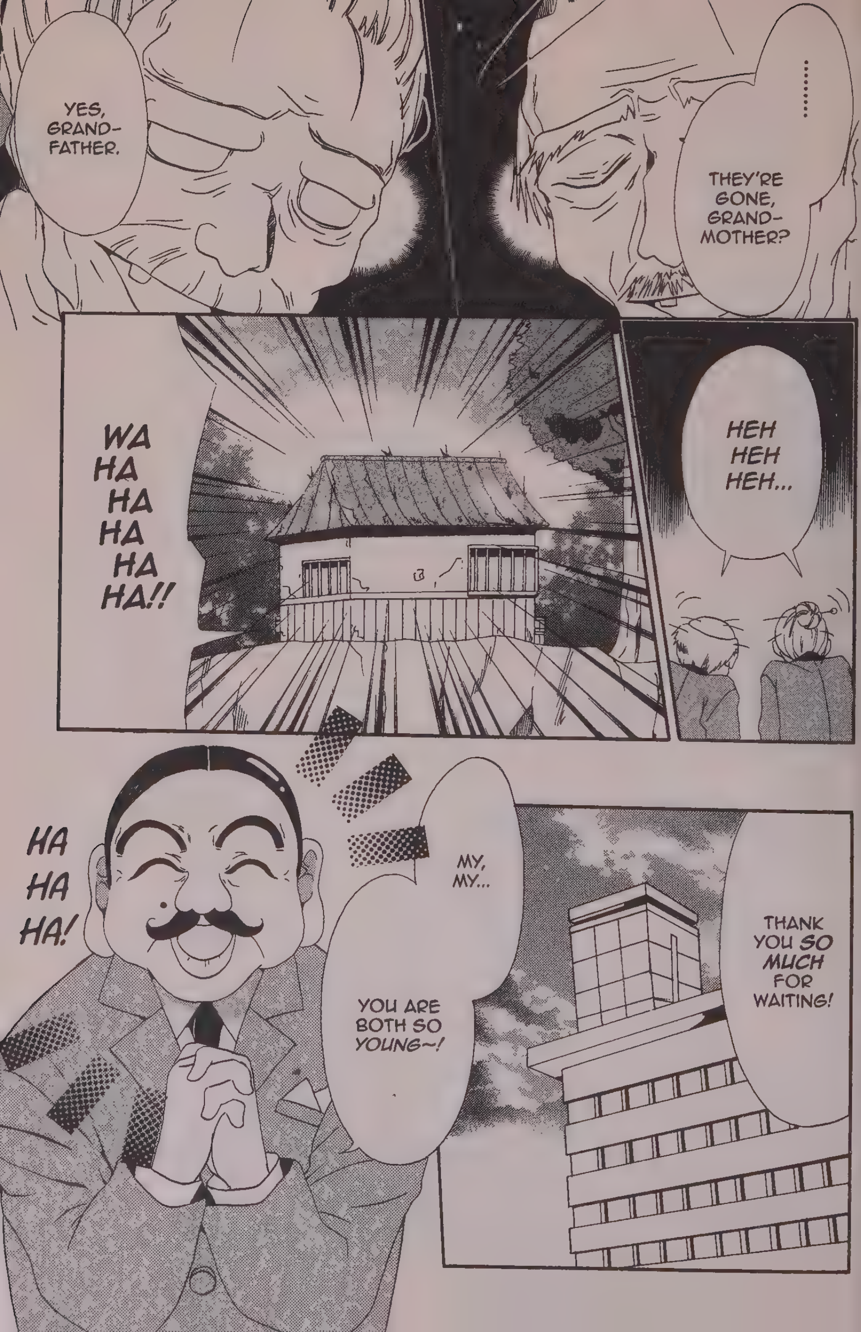

CRAP!
STEP
LOST 'IM.
I'LL GIVE HIM THIS... HE'S PRETTY *SPRY* FOR AN OLD GUY.
BUT IS HE EVEN *HUMAN?*
UH, COME TO THINK OF IT...
WHERE THE HECK AM I?
AND HOW'D I GET SO HIGH UP?
ヒュオオオオオオ
FROOOOOOO
HUH?

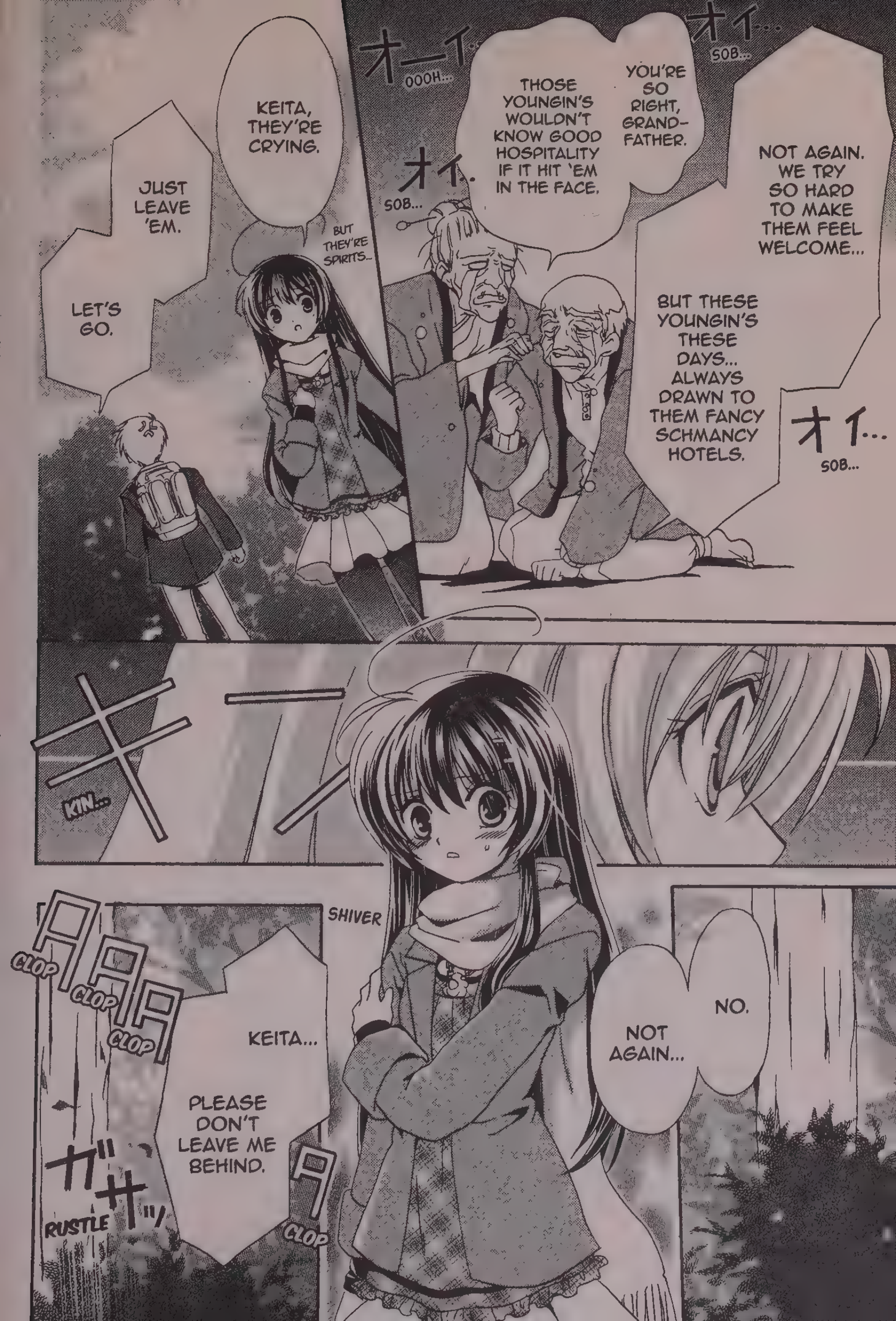

RATTLE
ガラ
FHOOM
WHA?!
KEITA!
WHO ARE YOU?!
GRAB
ギュ
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
CACKLE
CACKLE
CACKLE
JUST PULLING IN NEW GUESTS.
YOU... YOU'RE SPIRITS!
LET KEITA GO!
WHO'S THE SPIRIT HERE?
DON'T MESS WITH OUR BUSINESS!
GRAB

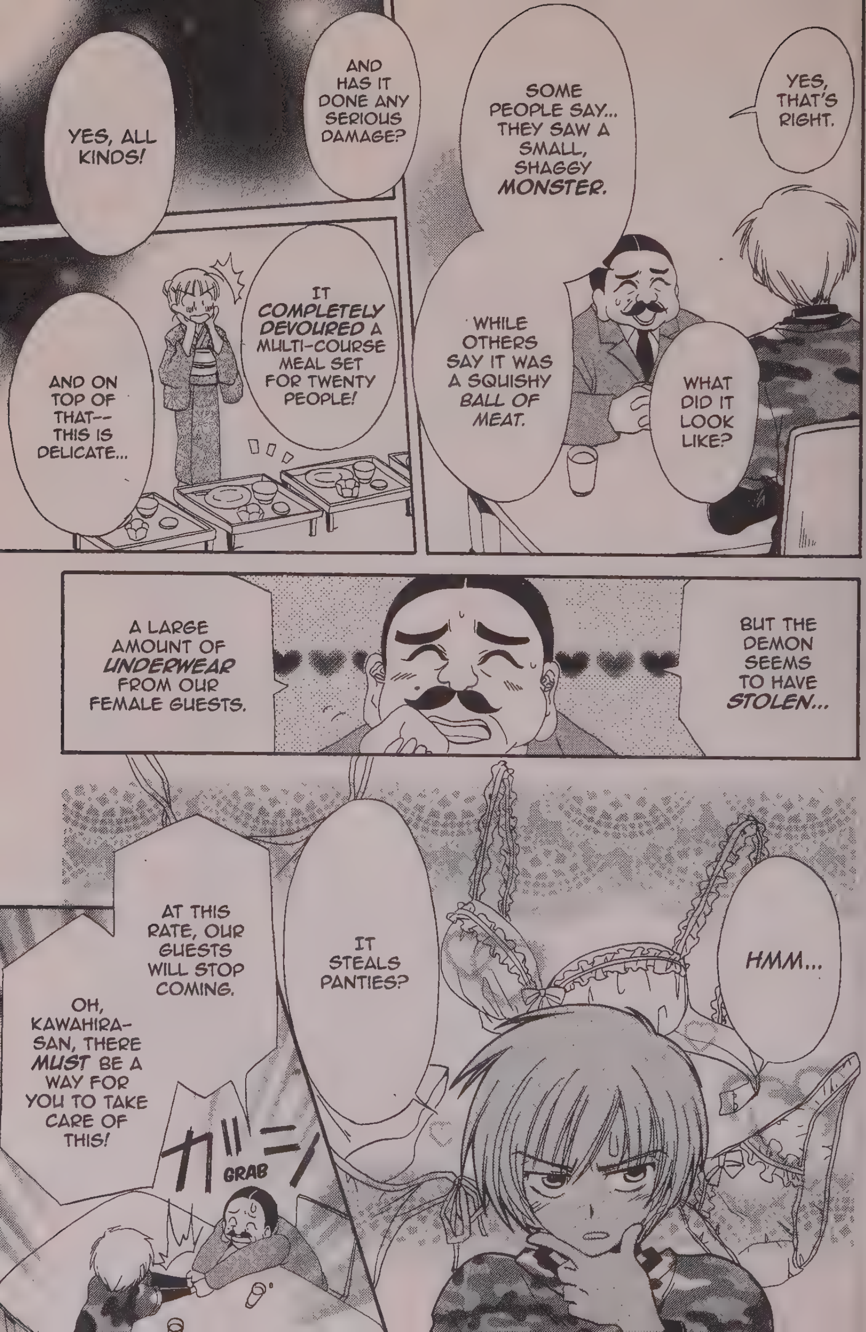

ひぃっ ひっ ひっ ひっ ひ
CACKLE
CACKLE
CACKLE
KEITA!
ポン
POOF
DID YOU CATCH THAT SPIRIT YET?
パ
SHOCK!
HM? WHAT'S WRONG?
ブー
SCAN
ブー
SCAN

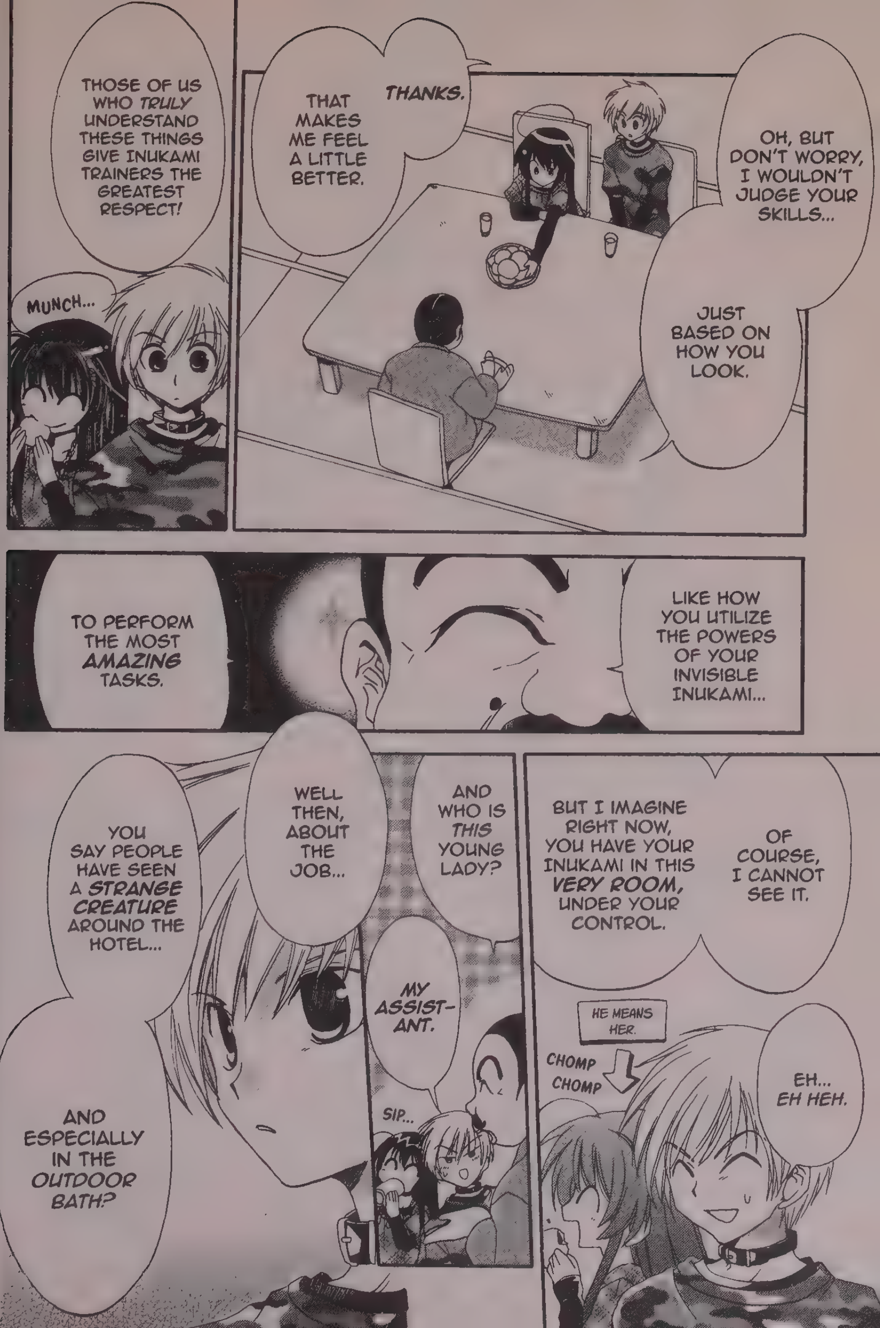

HEY! WAIT, GOOD CUSTOMERS!!
YES, AT LEAST *PAY* FOR THE ROOM.
OTHERWISE, I WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS TO MY *CAPTIVE* HERE.
YOKO, TAKE CARE OF THAT.
OKAY.
SHUKUCHI!
ポーン
POOF
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
WE SHOULD'VE JUST DONE THAT WHEN HE FIRST TOOK IT.

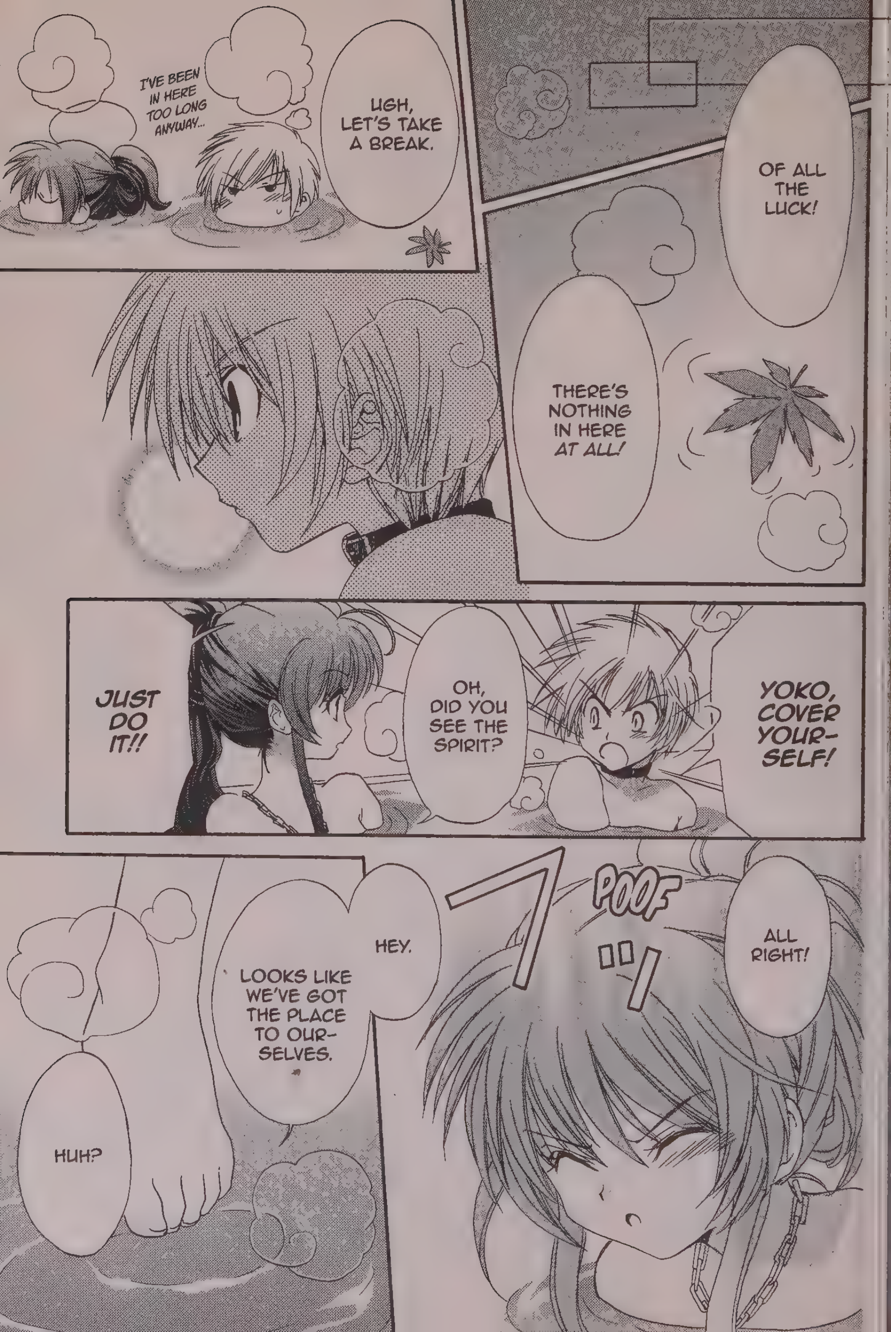

AAAAHH!
WHAM
STOP IT!!
OUCH!
YOKO.
WE'RE LEAVING.
THUMP

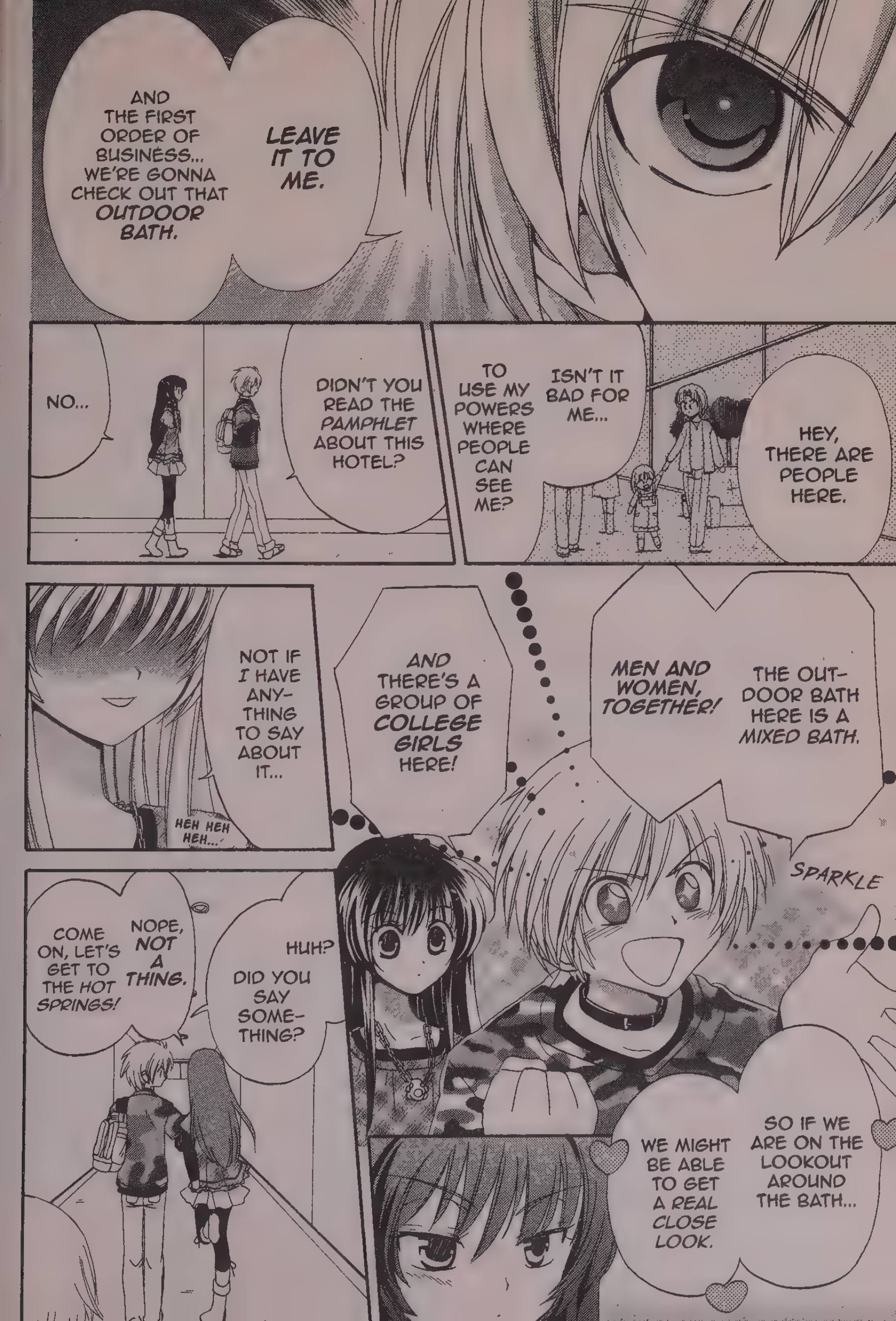

......
THEY'RE GONE, GRANDMOTHER?
YES, GRANDFATHER.
HEH HEH HEH...
WA HA HA HA HA HA!!
THANK YOU *SO MUCH* FOR WAITING!
MY, MY...
YOU ARE BOTH SO *YOUNG*~!
HA HA HA!

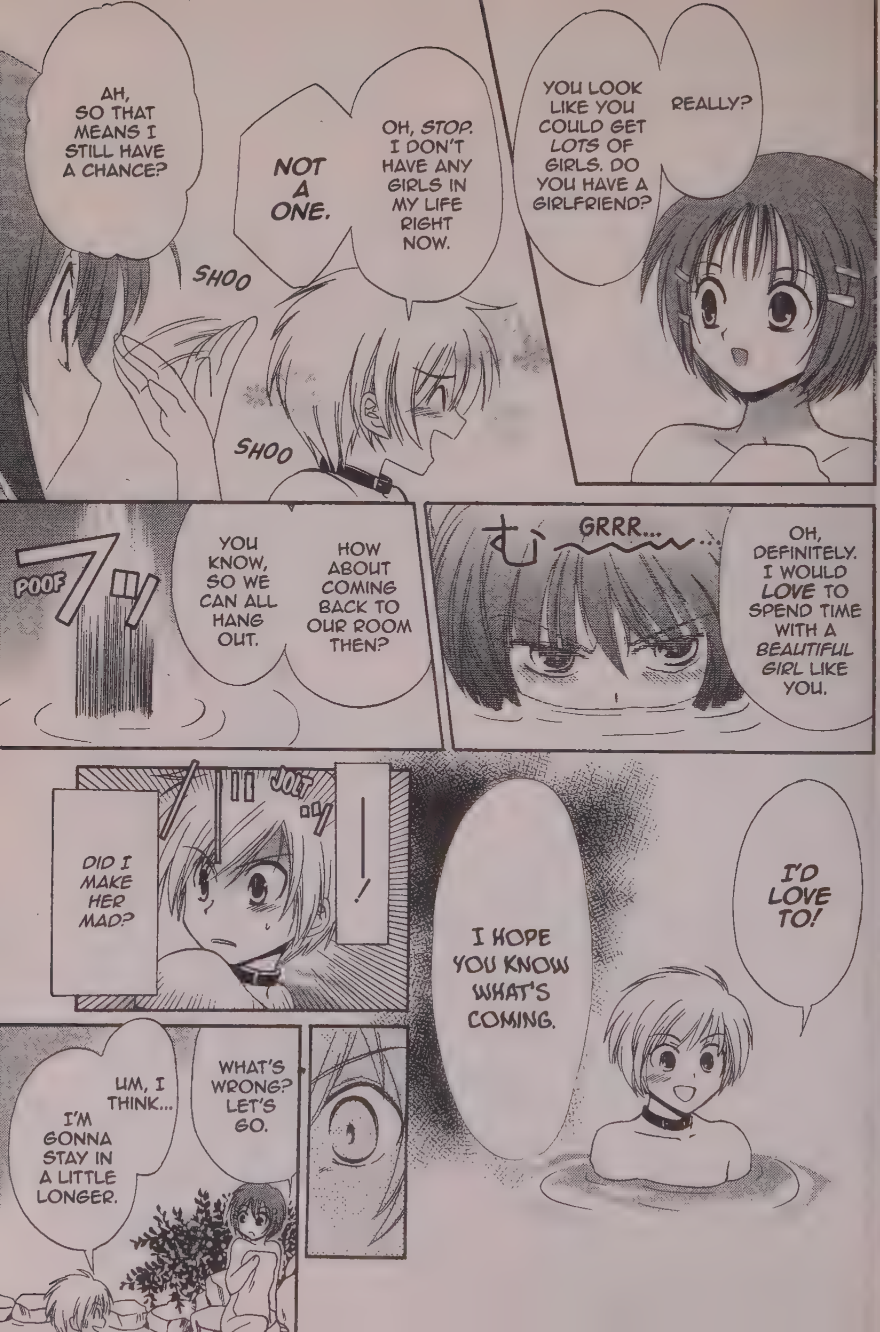

オイ...
SOB...
NOT AGAIN. WE TRY SO HARD TO MAKE THEM FEEL WELCOME...
BUT THESE YOUNGIN'S THESE DAYS... ALWAYS DRAWN TO THEM FANCY SCHMANCY HOTELS.
オイ...
SOB...
YOU'RE SO RIGHT, GRANDFATHER.
THOSE YOUNGIN'S WOULDN'T KNOW GOOD HOSPITALITY IF IT HIT 'EM IN THE FACE.
オーイ...
OOOH...
オイ.
SOB...
KEITA, THEY'RE CRYING.
BUT THEY'RE SPIRITS...
JUST LEAVE 'EM.
LET'S GO.
キーン
KIN...
NO.
NOT AGAIN...
SHIVER
KEITA...
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND.
タ
CLOP
タタタ
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
ガサッ
RUSTLE

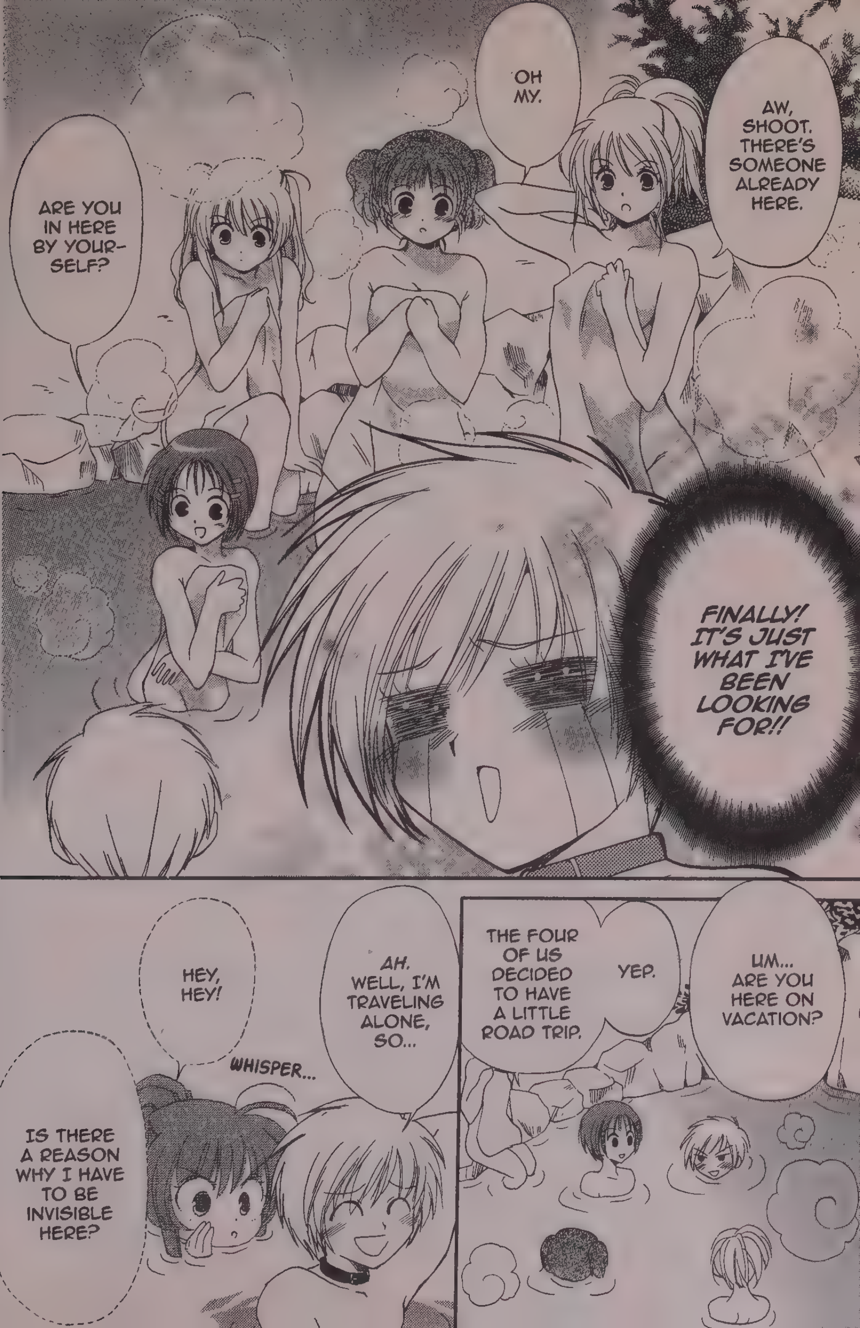

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
WHAT DID IT LOOK LIKE?
SOME PEOPLE SAY... THEY SAW A SMALL, SHAGGY *MONSTER.*
WHILE OTHERS SAY IT WAS A SQUISHY *BALL OF MEAT.*
AND HAS IT DONE ANY SERIOUS DAMAGE?
YES, ALL KINDS!
IT *COMPLETELY DEVOURED* A MULTI-COURSE MEAL SET FOR TWENTY PEOPLE!
AND ON TOP OF THAT-- THIS IS DELICATE...
BUT THE DEMON SEEMS TO HAVE *STOLEN...*
A LARGE AMOUNT OF *UNDERWEAR* FROM OUR FEMALE GUESTS.
HMM...
IT STEALS PANTIES?
AT THIS RATE, OUR GUESTS WILL STOP COMING.
OH, KAWAHIRA-SAN, THERE *MUST* BE A WAY FOR YOU TO TAKE CARE OF THIS!
GRAB

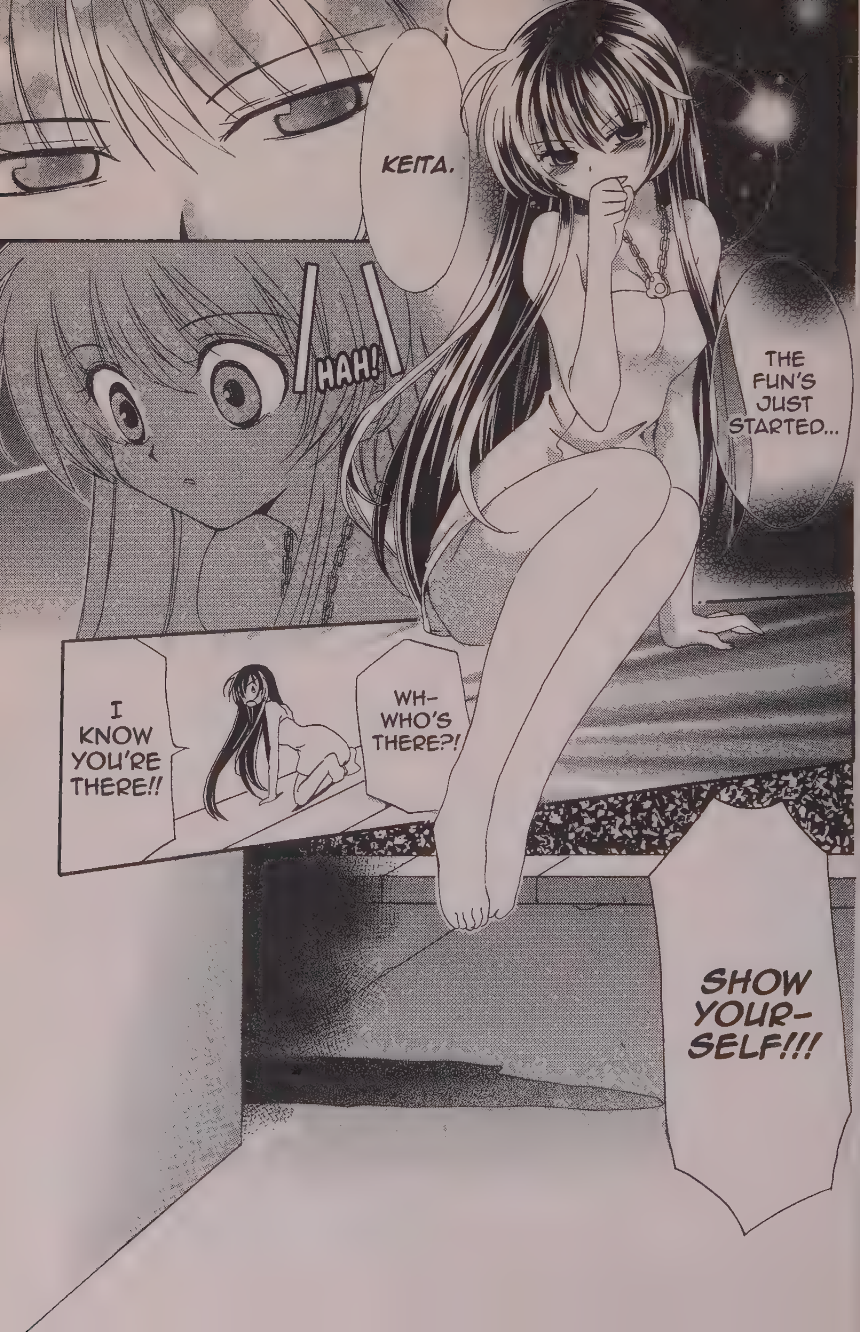

OH, BUT DON'T WORRY, I WOULDN'T JUDGE YOUR SKILLS...
JUST BASED ON HOW YOU LOOK.
THAT MAKES ME FEEL A LITTLE BETTER.
THANKS.
THOSE OF US WHO *TRULY* UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS GIVE INUKAMI TRAINERS THE GREATEST RESPECT!
MUNCH...
LIKE HOW YOU UTILIZE THE POWERS OF YOUR INVISIBLE INUKAMI...
TO PERFORM THE MOST *AMAZING* TASKS.
OF COURSE, I CANNOT SEE IT.
BUT I IMAGINE RIGHT NOW, YOU HAVE YOUR INUKAMI IN THIS *VERY ROOM,* UNDER YOUR CONTROL.
HE MEANS HER.
CHOMP CHOMP
EH... EH HEH.
AND WHO IS *THIS* YOUNG LADY?
MY ASSISTANT.
SIP...
WELL THEN, ABOUT THE JOB...
YOU SAY PEOPLE HAVE SEEN A *STRANGE CREATURE* AROUND THE HOTEL...
AND ESPECIALLY IN THE *OUTDOOR BATH?*

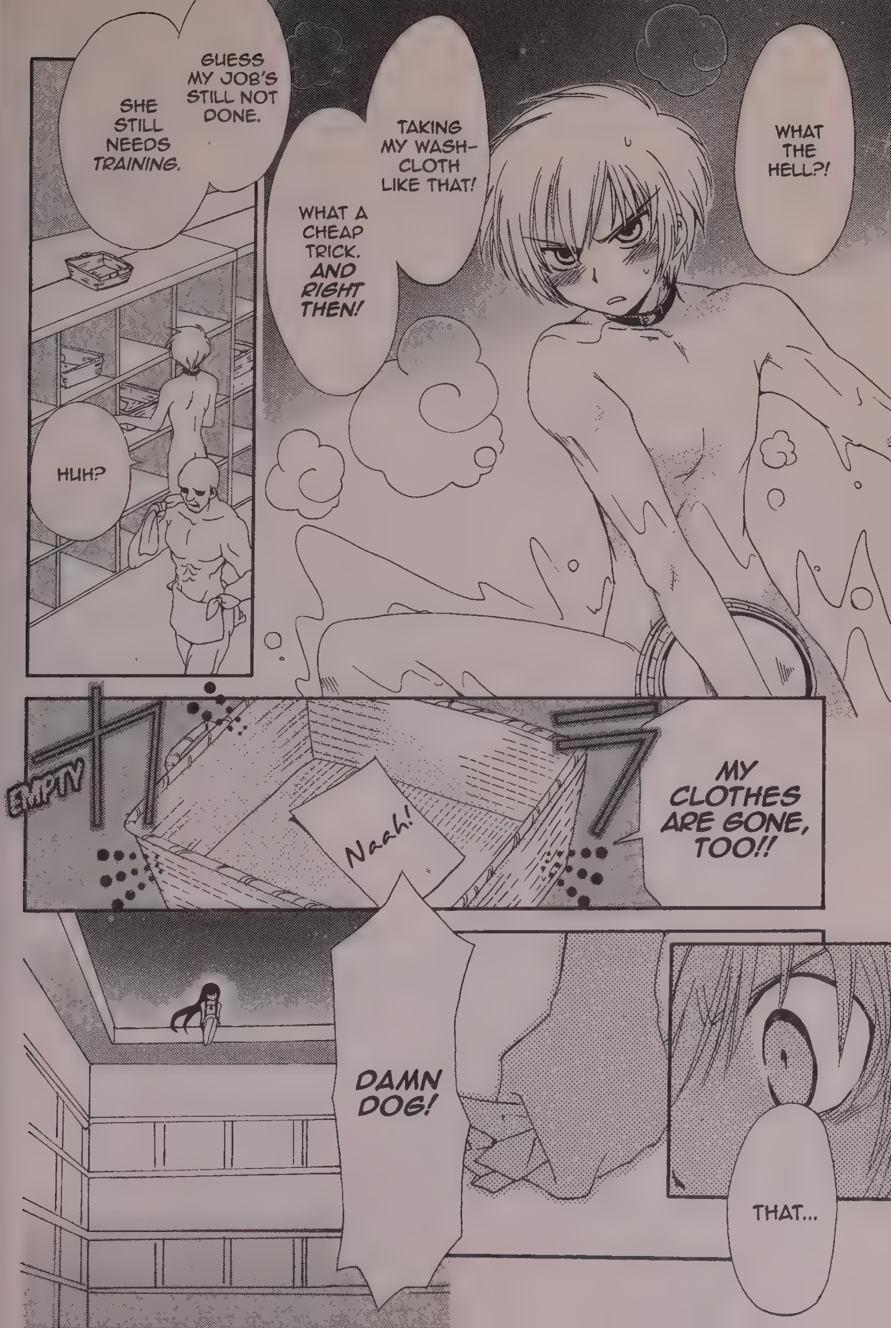

OF ALL THE LUCK!
THERE'S NOTHING IN HERE AT ALL!
UGH, LET'S TAKE A BREAK.
I'VE BEEN IN HERE TOO LONG ANYWAY...
YOKO, COVER YOURSELF!
OH, DID YOU SEE THE SPIRIT?
JUST DO IT!!
ALL RIGHT!
POOF
HEY.
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT THE PLACE TO OURSELVES.
HUH?


LEAVE IT TO ME.
AND THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS... WE'RE GONNA CHECK OUT THAT OUTDOOR BATH.
HEY, THERE ARE PEOPLE HERE.
ISN'T IT BAD FOR ME...
TO USE MY POWERS WHERE PEOPLE CAN SEE ME?
DIDN'T YOU READ THE PAMPHLET ABOUT THIS HOTEL?
NO...
THE OUTDOOR BATH HERE IS A MIXED BATH.
MEN AND WOMEN, TOGETHER!
AND THERE'S A GROUP OF COLLEGE GIRLS HERE!
SPARKLE
SO IF WE ARE ON THE LOOKOUT AROUND THE BATH...
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET A REAL CLOSE LOOK.
NOT IF I HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT...
HEH HEH HEH...
HUH?
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
NOPE, NOT A THING.
COME ON, LET'S GET TO THE HOT SPRINGS!

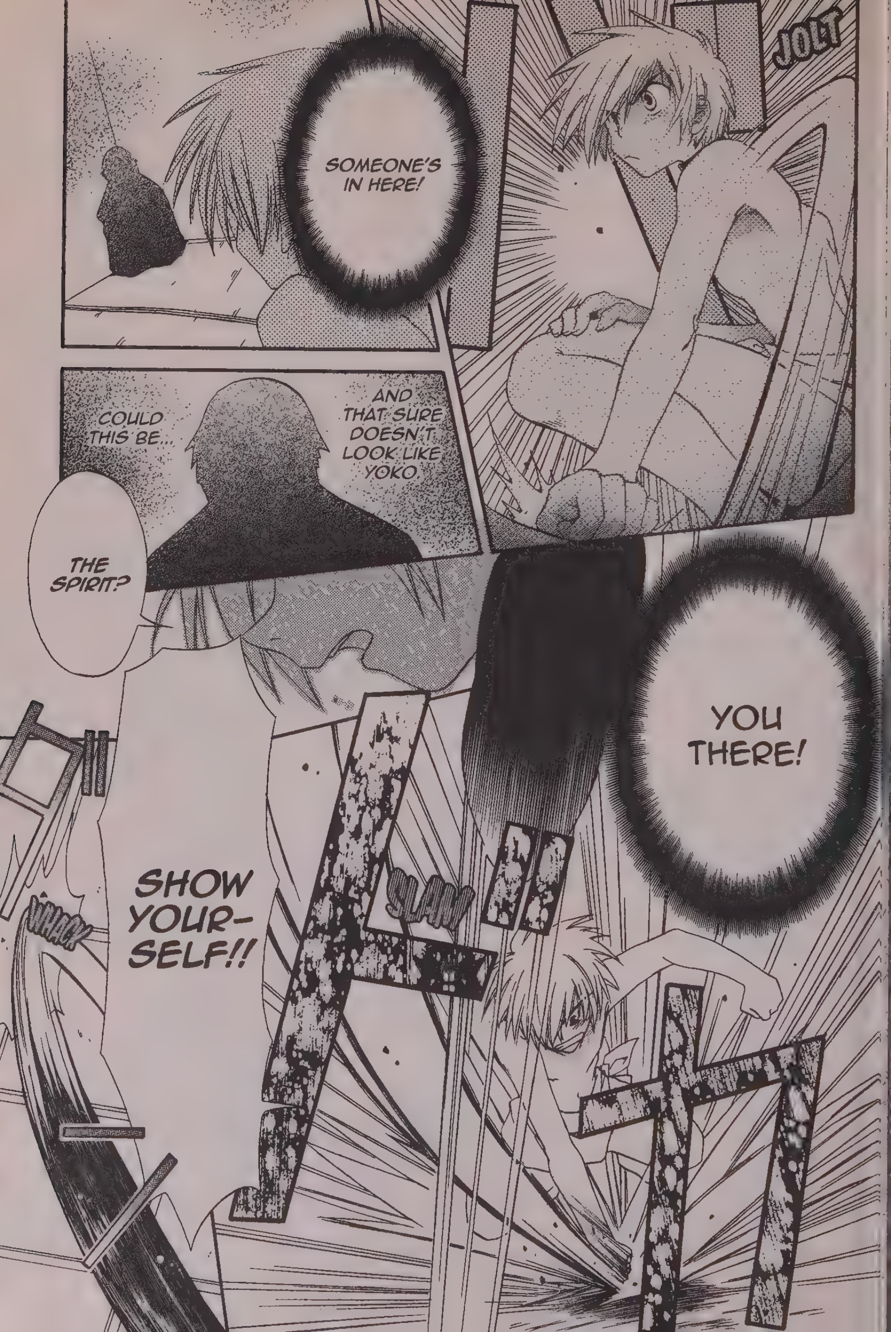

REALLY?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD GET LOTS OF GIRLS. DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
OH, *STOP.* I DON'T HAVE ANY GIRLS IN MY LIFE RIGHT NOW.
NOT A ONE.
SHOO
SHOO
AH, SO THAT MEANS I STILL HAVE A CHANCE?
OH, DEFINITELY. I WOULD *LOVE* TO SPEND TIME WITH A BEAUTIFUL GIRL LIKE YOU.
む GRRR...
HOW ABOUT COMING BACK TO OUR ROOM THEN?
YOU KNOW, SO WE CAN ALL HANG OUT.
POOF
I'D LOVE TO!
I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT'S COMING.
!
JOLT
DID I MAKE HER MAD?
WHAT'S WRONG? LET'S GO.
UM, I THINK... I'M GONNA STAY IN A LITTLE LONGER.

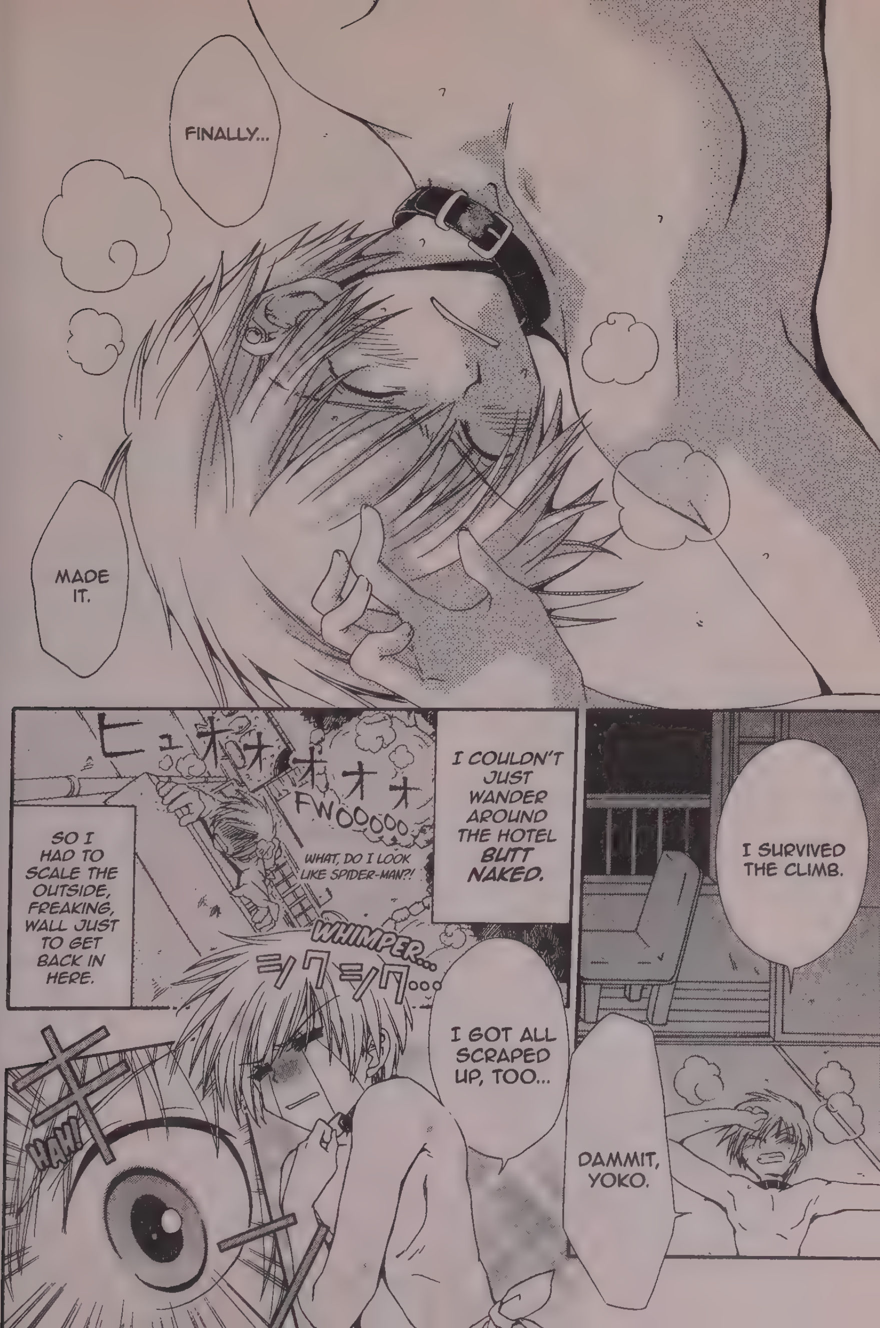

AW, SHOOT. THERE'S SOMEONE ALREADY HERE.
OH MY.
ARE YOU IN HERE BY YOURSELF?
FINALLY! IT'S JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!!
UM... ARE YOU HERE ON VACATION?
YEP.
THE FOUR OF US DECIDED TO HAVE A LITTLE ROAD TRIP.
AH. WELL, I'M TRAVELING ALONE, SO...
HEY, HEY!
WHISPER...
IS THERE A REASON WHY I HAVE TO BE INVISIBLE HERE?

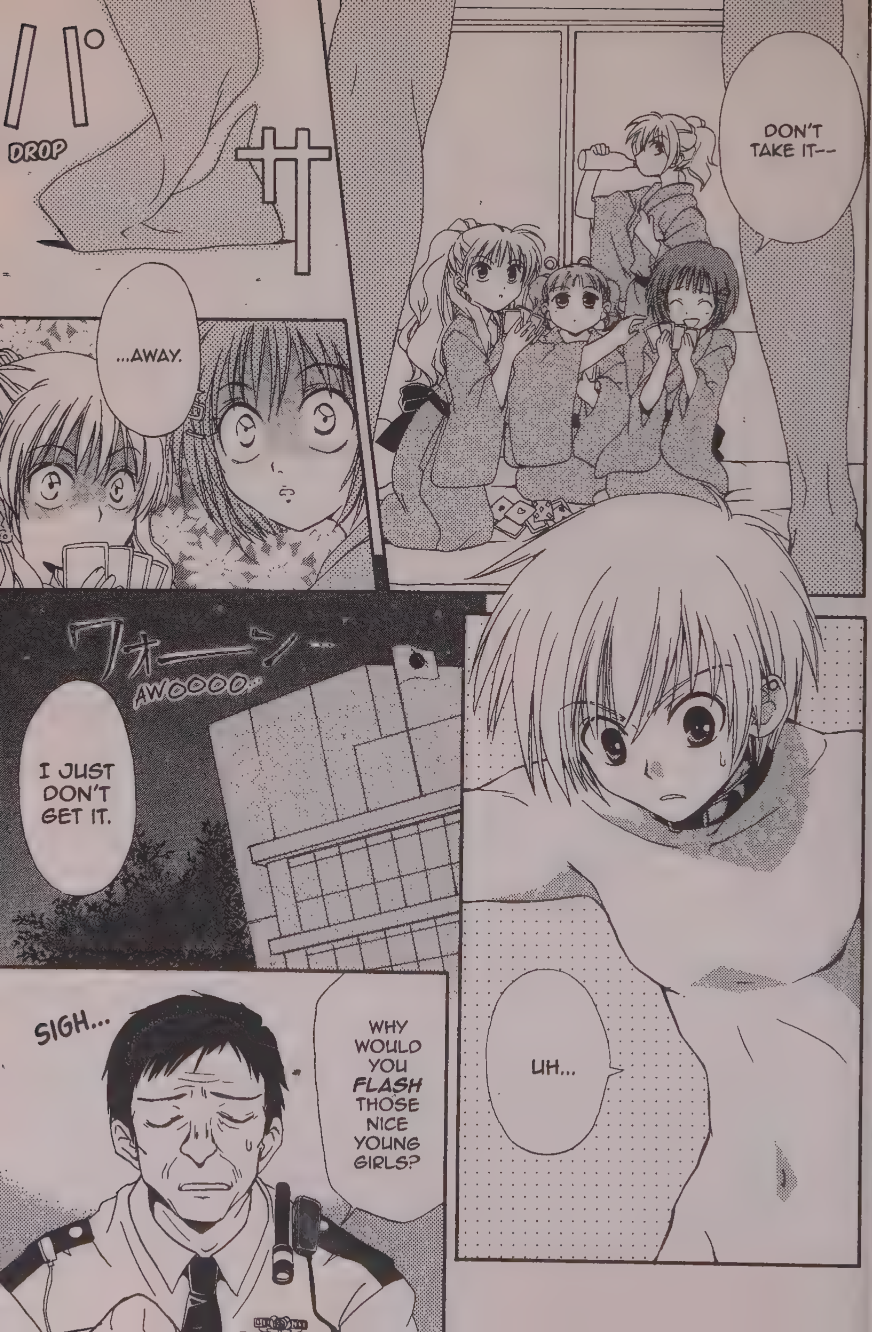

KEITA.
THE FUN'S JUST STARTED...
HAH!
WH-WHO'S THERE?!
I KNOW YOU'RE THERE!!
SHOW YOURSELF!!!

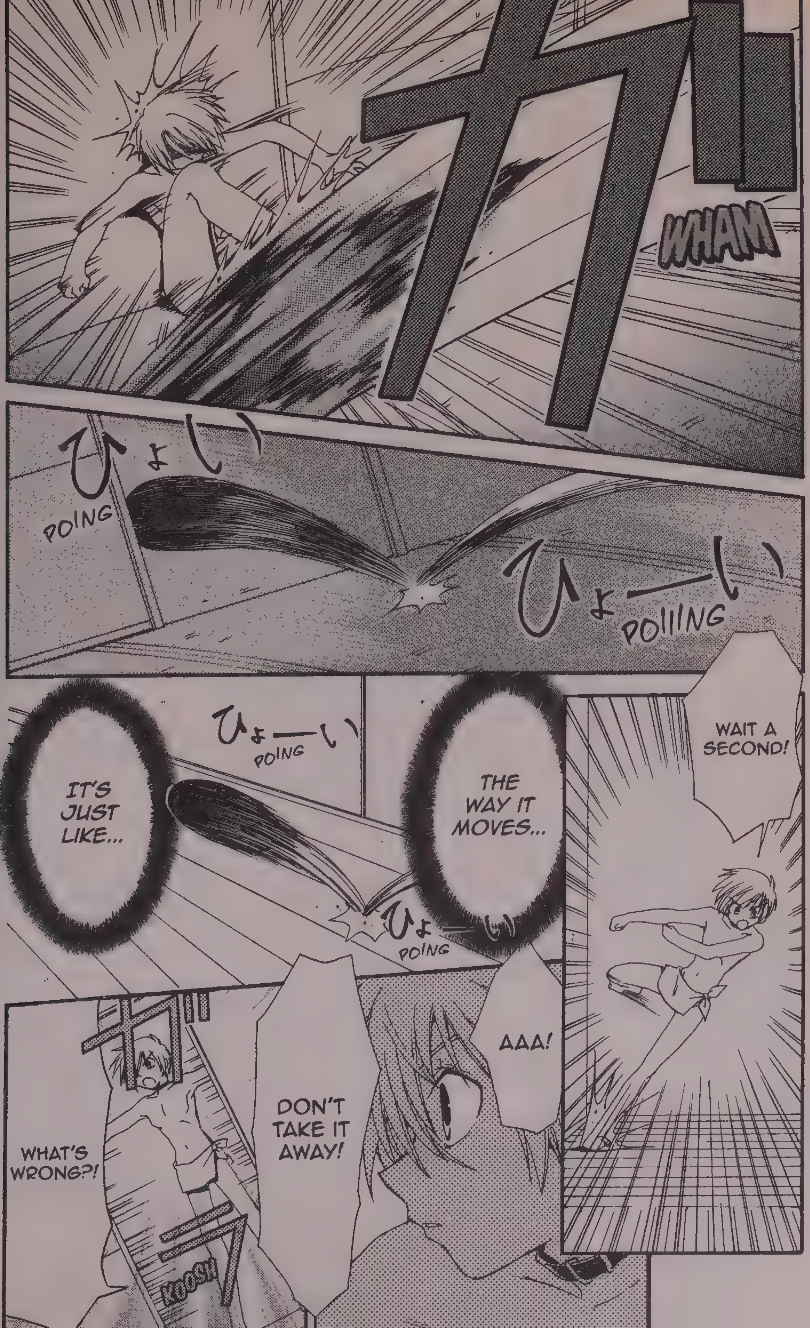

WHAT THE HELL?!
TAKING MY WASHCLOTH LIKE THAT!
WHAT A CHEAP TRICK. AND RIGHT THEN!
GUESS MY JOB'S STILL NOT DONE.
SHE STILL NEEDS TRAINING.
HUH?
MY CLOTHES ARE GONE, TOO!!
Naah!
EMPTY
THAT...
DAMN DOG!

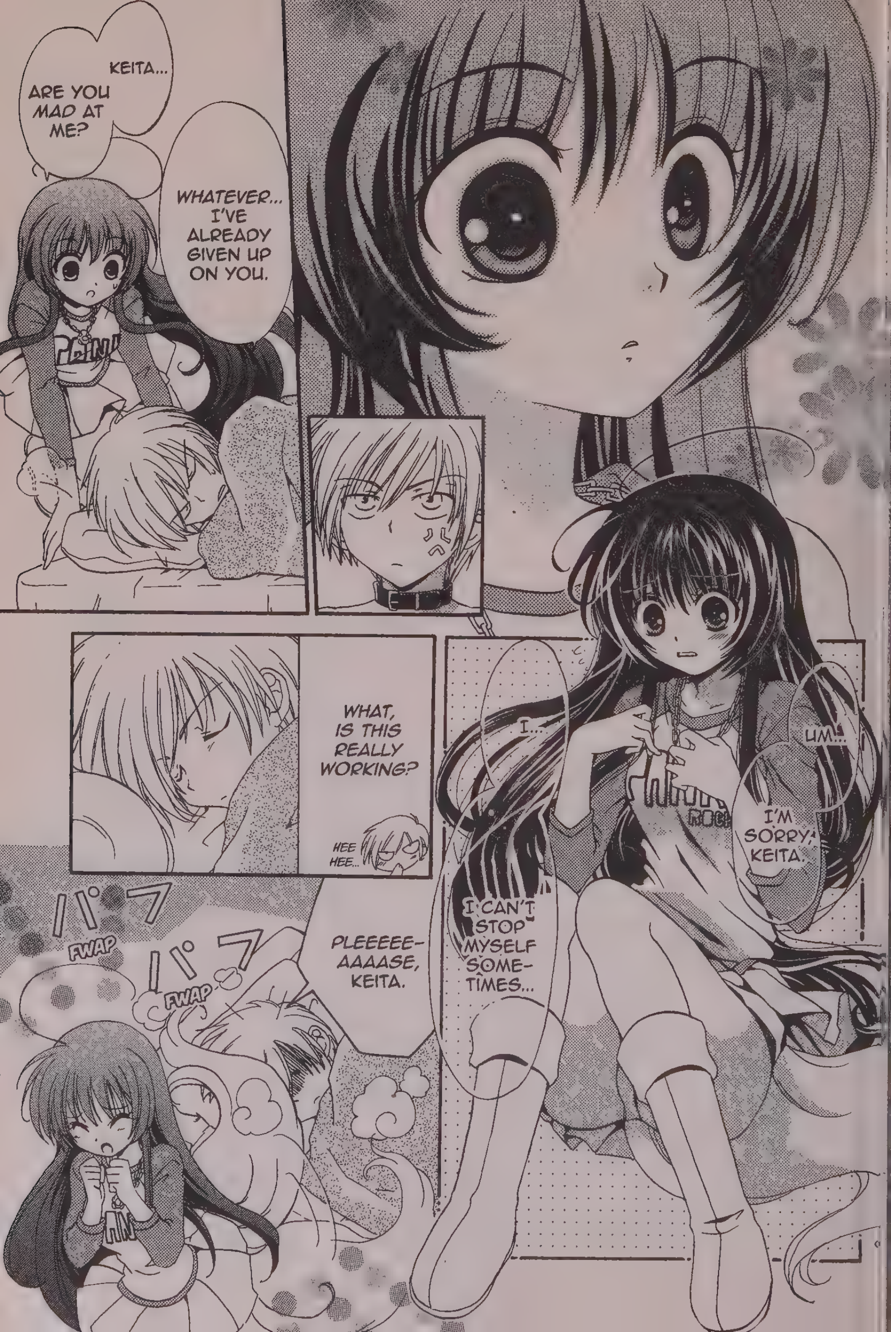
Step.3 With a Hot Springs, a Cat, and a Buddha Statue: Part

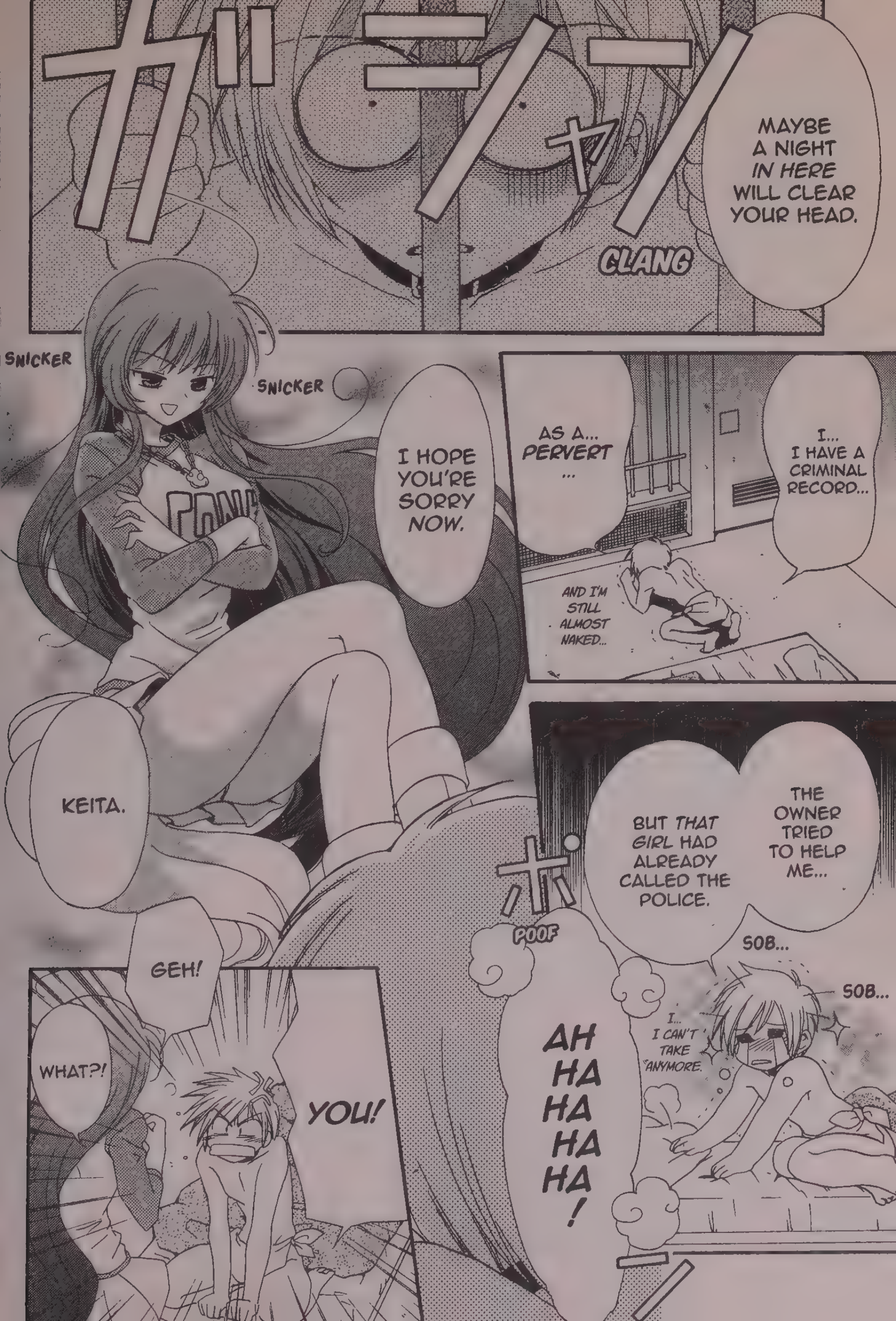

JOLT
SOMEONE'S IN HERE!
AND THAT SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOKO.
COULD THIS BE...
THE SPIRIT?
YOU THERE!
SLAM
SHOW YOURSELF!!
WHACK

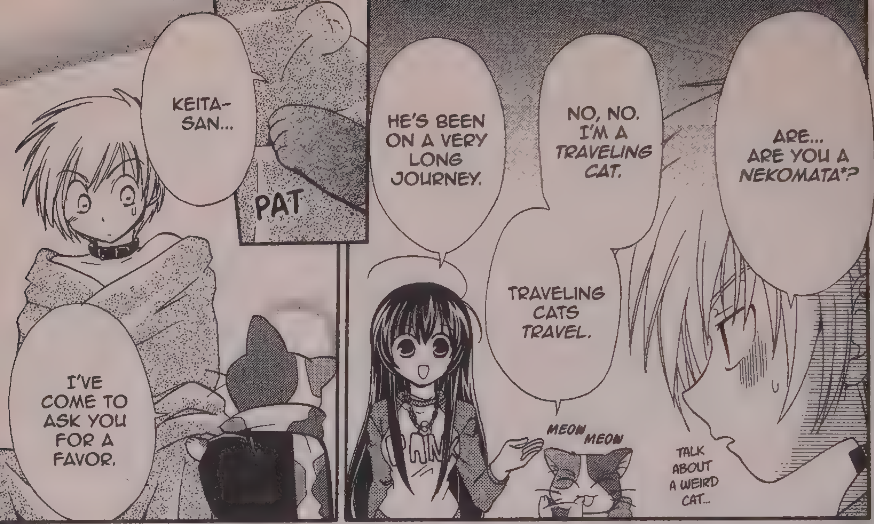

FINALLY...
MADE IT.
I SURVIVED THE CLIMB.
DAMMIT, YOKO.
I COULDN'T JUST WANDER AROUND THE HOTEL *BUTT NAKED.*
ヒュオオオオオ
FWOOOOO
WHAT, DO I LOOK LIKE SPIDER-MAN?!
SO I HAD TO SCALE THE OUTSIDE, FREAKING, WALL JUST TO GET BACK IN HERE.
WHIMPER...
シクシク...
I GOT ALL SCRAPED UP, TOO...
HAH!

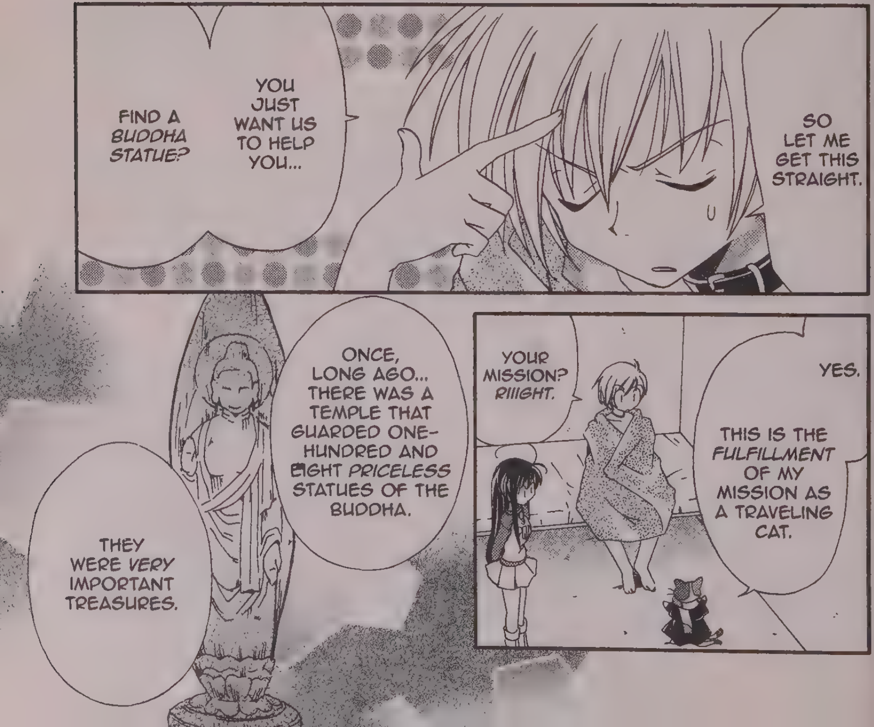

DON'T TAKE IT--
パ
DROP
サ
...AWAY.
ワォーン
AWOOOO...
I JUST DON'T GET IT.
SIGH...
WHY WOULD YOU *FLASH* THOSE NICE YOUNG GIRLS?
UH...


WHAM
ひょーい
POIIING
ひょい
POING
WAIT A SECOND!
THE WAY IT MOVES...
ひょーい
POING
IT'S JUST LIKE...
ひょーい
POING
AAA!
DON'T TAKE IT AWAY!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
KOOSH


KEITA...
ARE YOU MAD AT ME?
WHATEVER... I'VE ALREADY GIVEN UP ON YOU.
UM...
I'M SORRY, KEITA.
I...
I CAN'T STOP MYSELF SOMETIMES...
WHAT, IS THIS REALLY WORKING?
HEE HEE...
PLEEEEE-AAAASE, KEITA.
パフ
FWAP
パフ
FWAP


ガシャーン
MAYBE A NIGHT IN HERE WILL CLEAR YOUR HEAD.
CLANG
I... I HAVE A CRIMINAL RECORD...
AS A... PERVERT...
AND I'M STILL ALMOST NAKED...
SNICKER
SNICKER
I HOPE YOU'RE SORRY NOW.
KEITA.
THE OWNER TRIED TO HELP ME...
BUT THAT GIRL HAD ALREADY CALLED THE POLICE.
SOB...
SOB...
I... I CAN'T TAKE ANYMORE.
ポン
POOF
AH HA HA HA HA HA!
YOU!
GEH!
WHAT?!


ARE... ARE YOU A NEKOMATA*?
NO, NO. I'M A TRAVELING CAT.
HE'S BEEN ON A VERY LONG JOURNEY.
TRAVELING CATS TRAVEL.
MEOW MEOW
TALK ABOUT A WEIRD CAT...
KEITA-SAN...
PAT
I'VE COME TO ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR.


SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.
YOU JUST WANT US TO HELP YOU...
FIND A BUDDHA STATUE?
YES.
THIS IS THE FULFILLMENT OF MY MISSION AS A TRAVELING CAT.
YOUR MISSION? RIIIGHT.
ONCE, LONG AGO... THERE WAS A TEMPLE THAT GUARDED ONE-HUNDRED AND EIGHT PRICELESS STATUES OF THE BUDDHA.
THEY WERE VERY IMPORTANT TREASURES.

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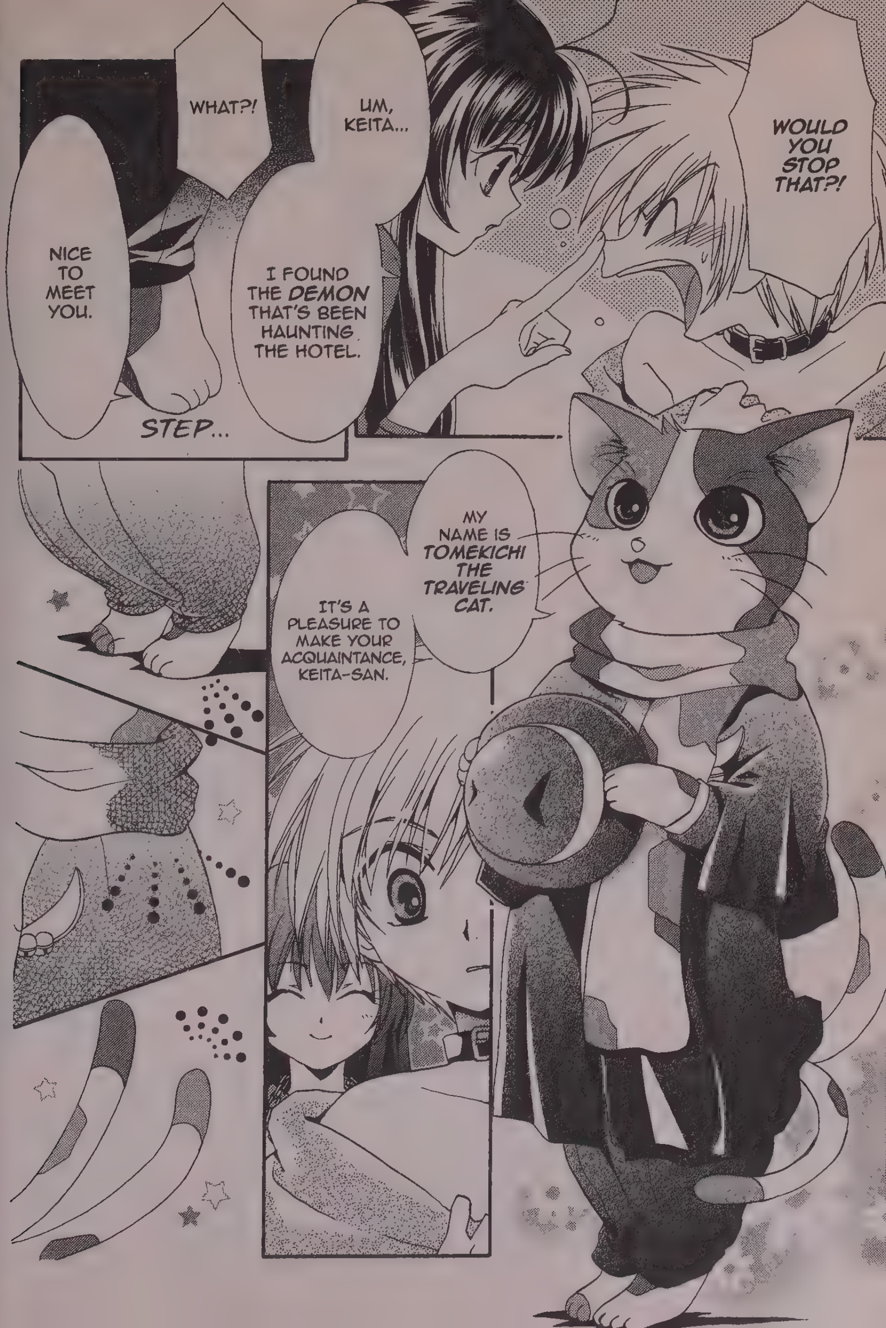
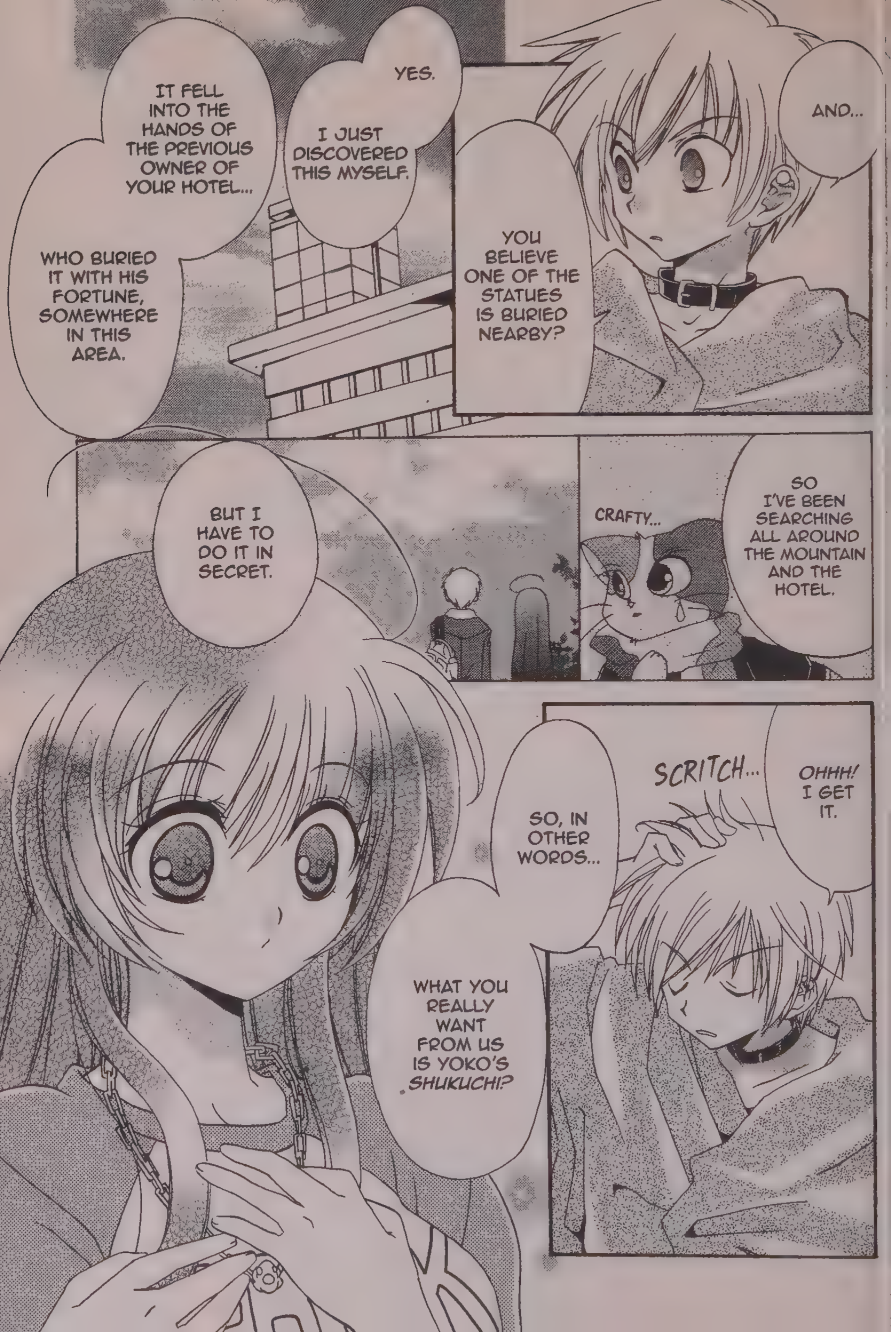
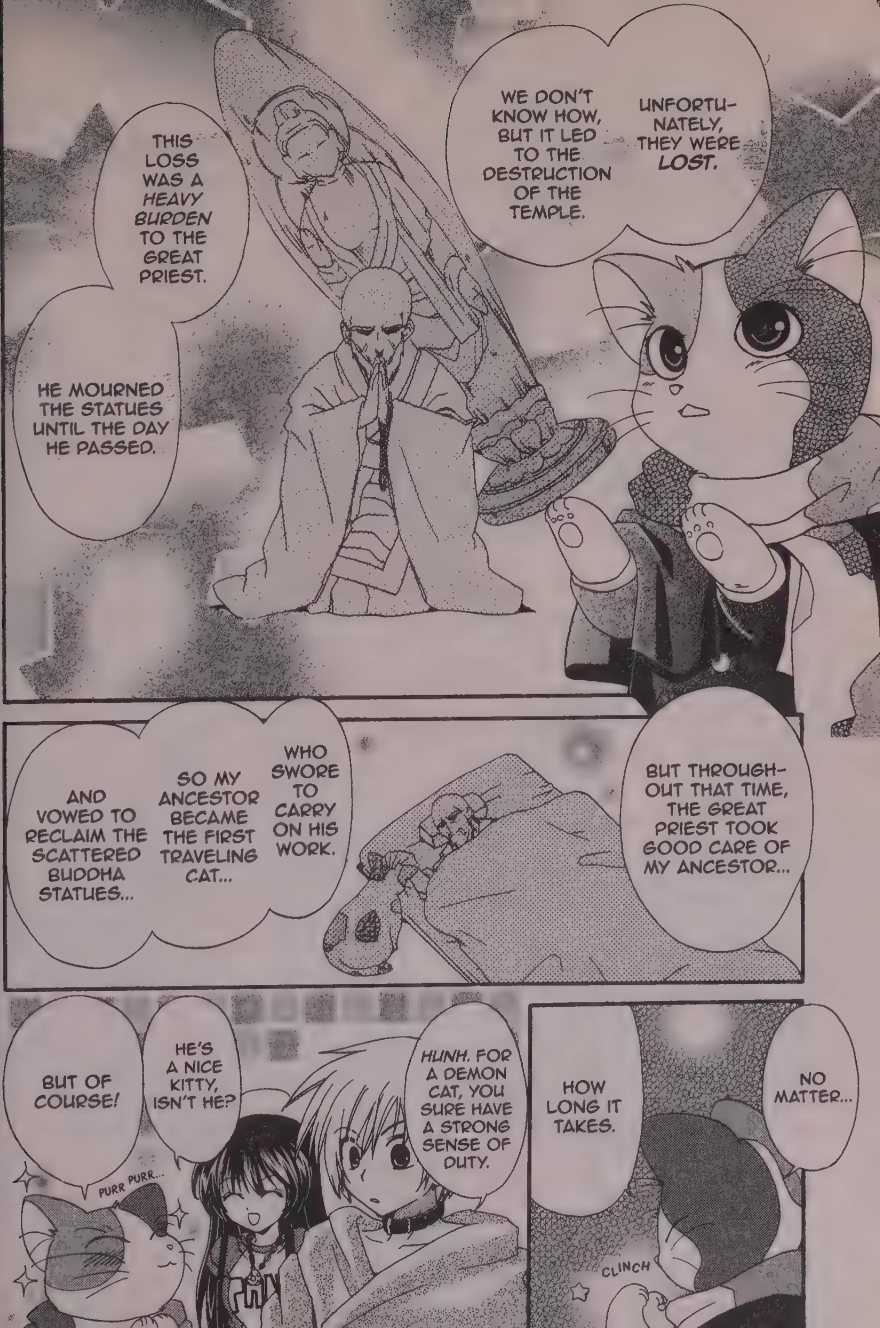
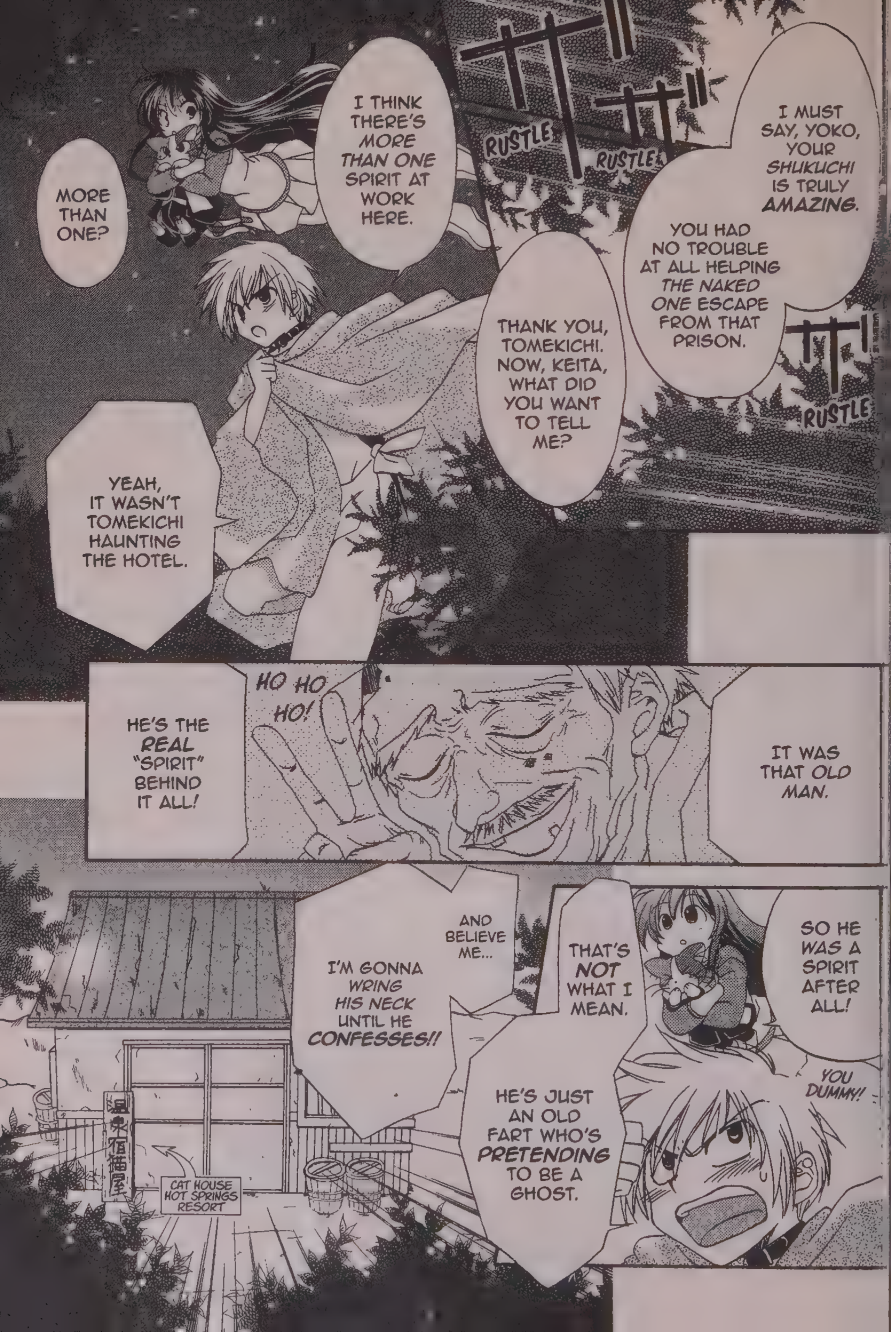
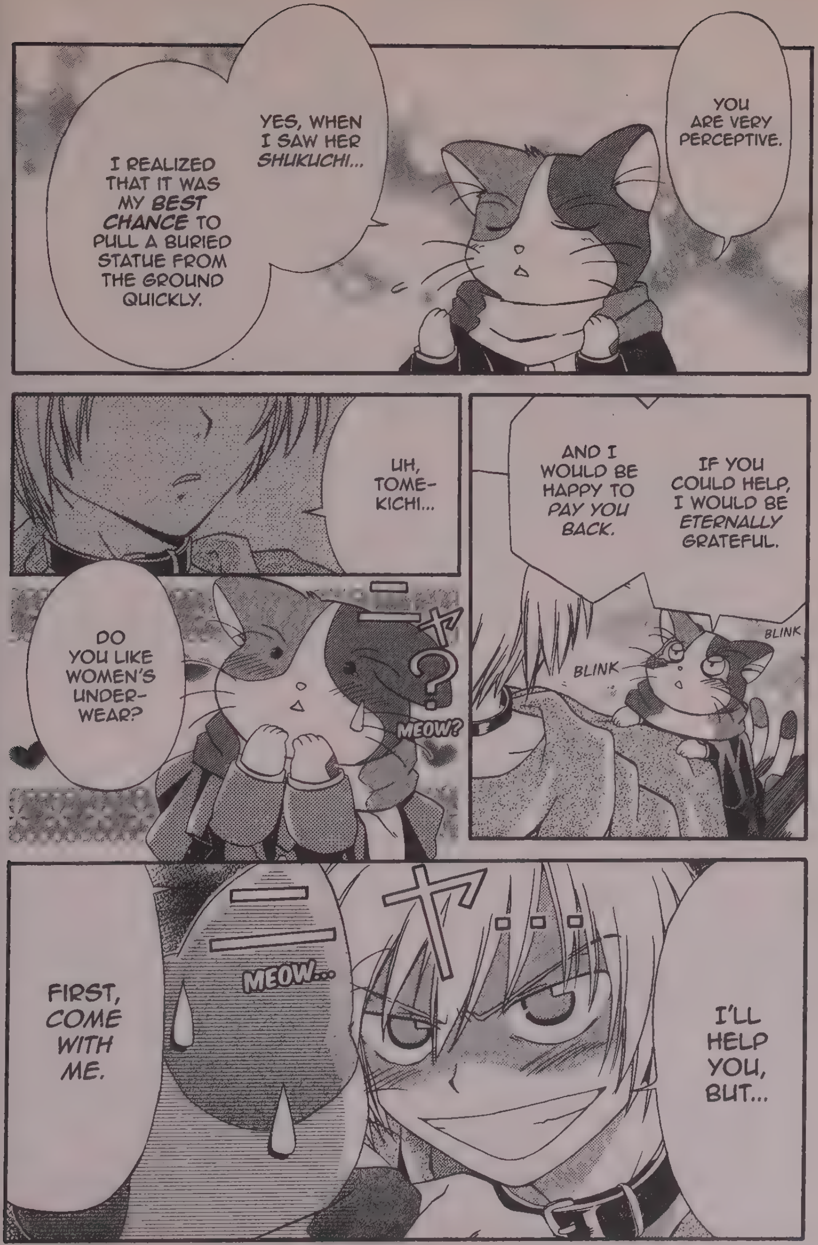
*IN JAPANESE FOLKLORE, A *NEKOMATA* IS A DEMON CAT WITH A FORKED TAIL.

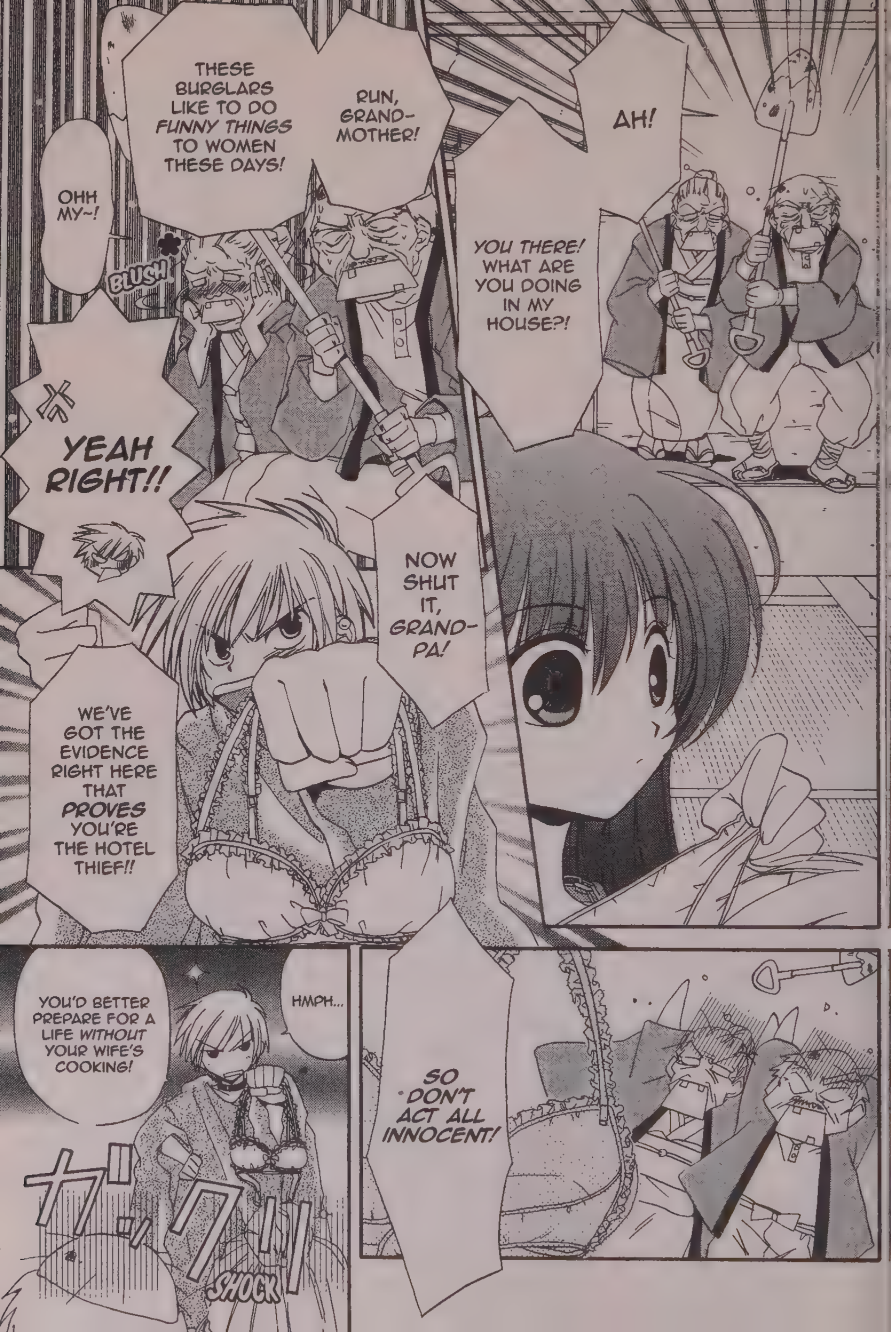

WOULD YOU STOP THAT?!
UM, KEITA...
I FOUND THE *DEMON* THAT'S BEEN HAUNTING THE HOTEL.
WHAT?!
NICE TO MEET YOU.
STEP...
MY NAME IS *TOMEKICHI THE TRAVELING CAT.*
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, KEITA-SAN.

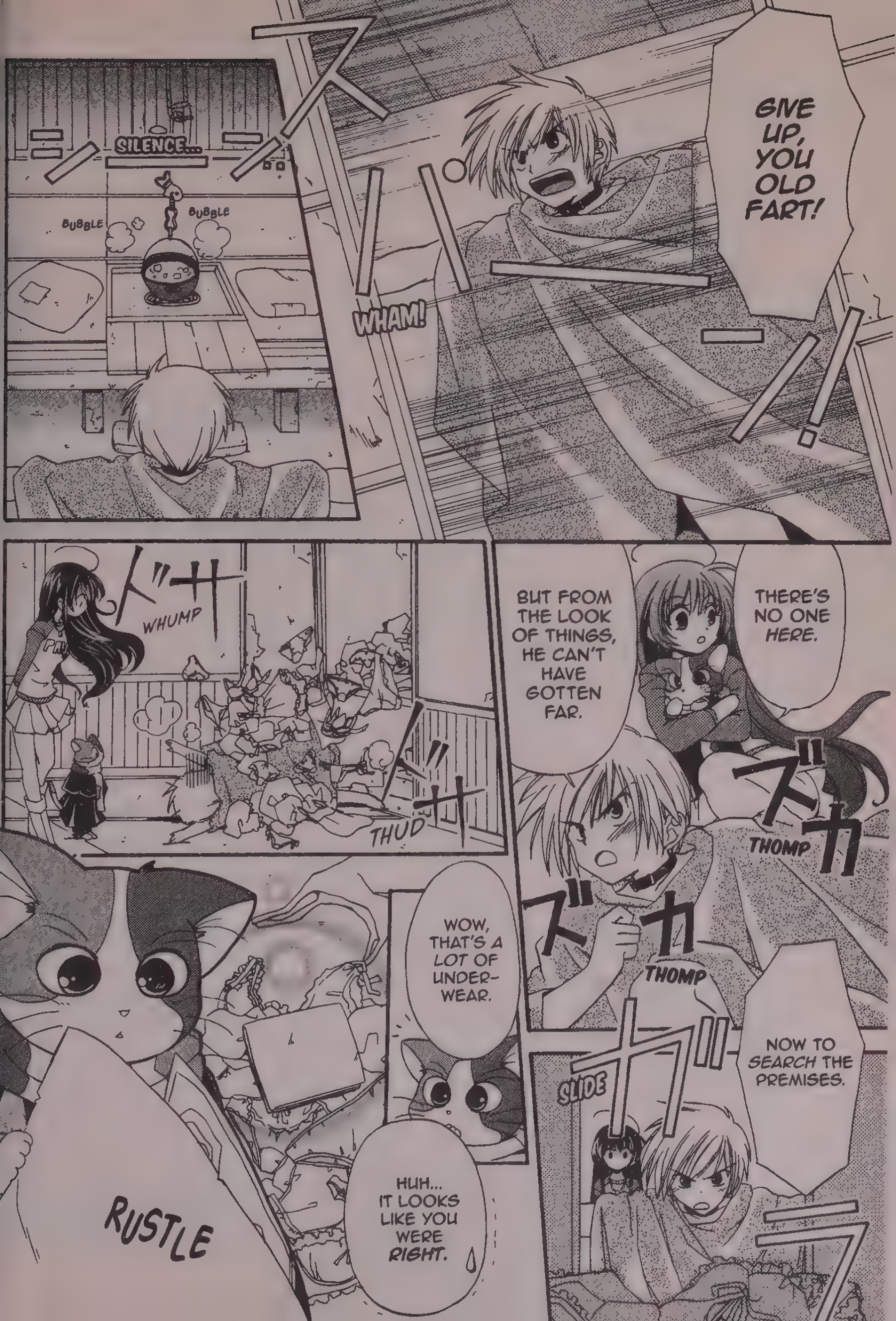

AND...
YOU BELIEVE ONE OF THE STATUES IS BURIED NEARBY?
YES.
I JUST DISCOVERED THIS MYSELF.
IT FELL INTO THE HANDS OF THE PREVIOUS OWNER OF YOUR HOTEL...
WHO BURIED IT WITH HIS FORTUNE, SOMEWHERE IN THIS AREA.
SO I'VE BEEN SEARCHING ALL AROUND THE MOUNTAIN AND THE HOTEL.
CRAFTY...
BUT I HAVE TO DO IT IN SECRET.
OHHH! I GET IT.
SCRITCH...
SO, IN OTHER WORDS...
WHAT YOU REALLY WANT FROM US IS YOKO'S *SHUKUCHI*?

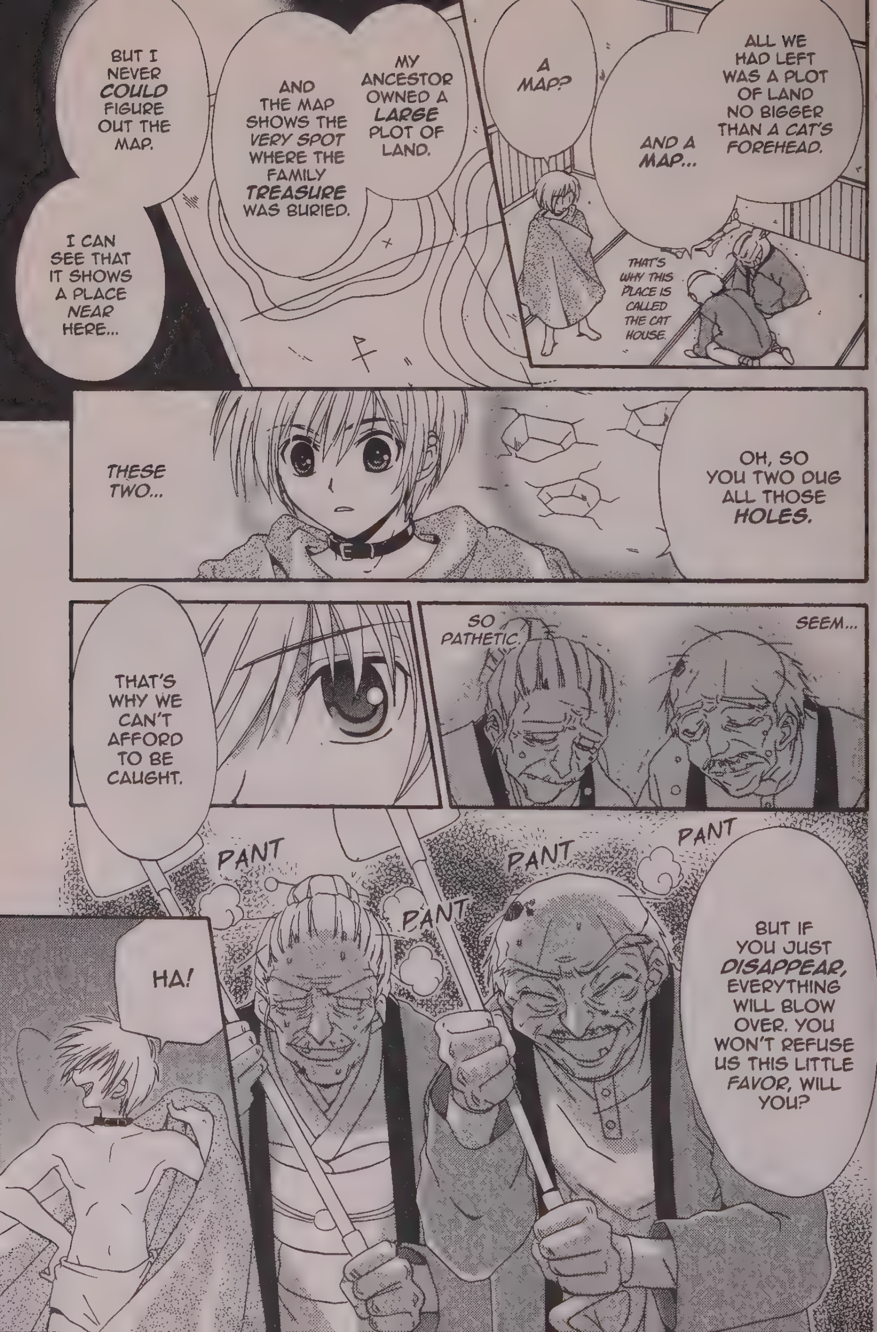

UNFORTUNATELY, THEY WERE *LOST.*
WE DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT IT LED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE.
THIS LOSS WAS A *HEAVY BURDEN* TO THE GREAT PRIEST.
HE MOURNED THE STATUES UNTIL THE DAY HE PASSED.
BUT THROUGHOUT THAT TIME, THE GREAT PRIEST TOOK GOOD CARE OF MY ANCESTOR...
WHO SWORE TO CARRY ON HIS WORK.
SO MY ANCESTOR BECAME THE FIRST TRAVELING CAT...
AND VOWED TO RECLAIM THE SCATTERED BUDDHA STATUES...
NO MATTER...
HOW LONG IT TAKES.
CLINCH
HUNH. FOR A DEMON CAT, YOU SURE HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF DUTY.
HE'S A NICE KITTY, ISN'T HE?
BUT OF COURSE!
PURR PURR...

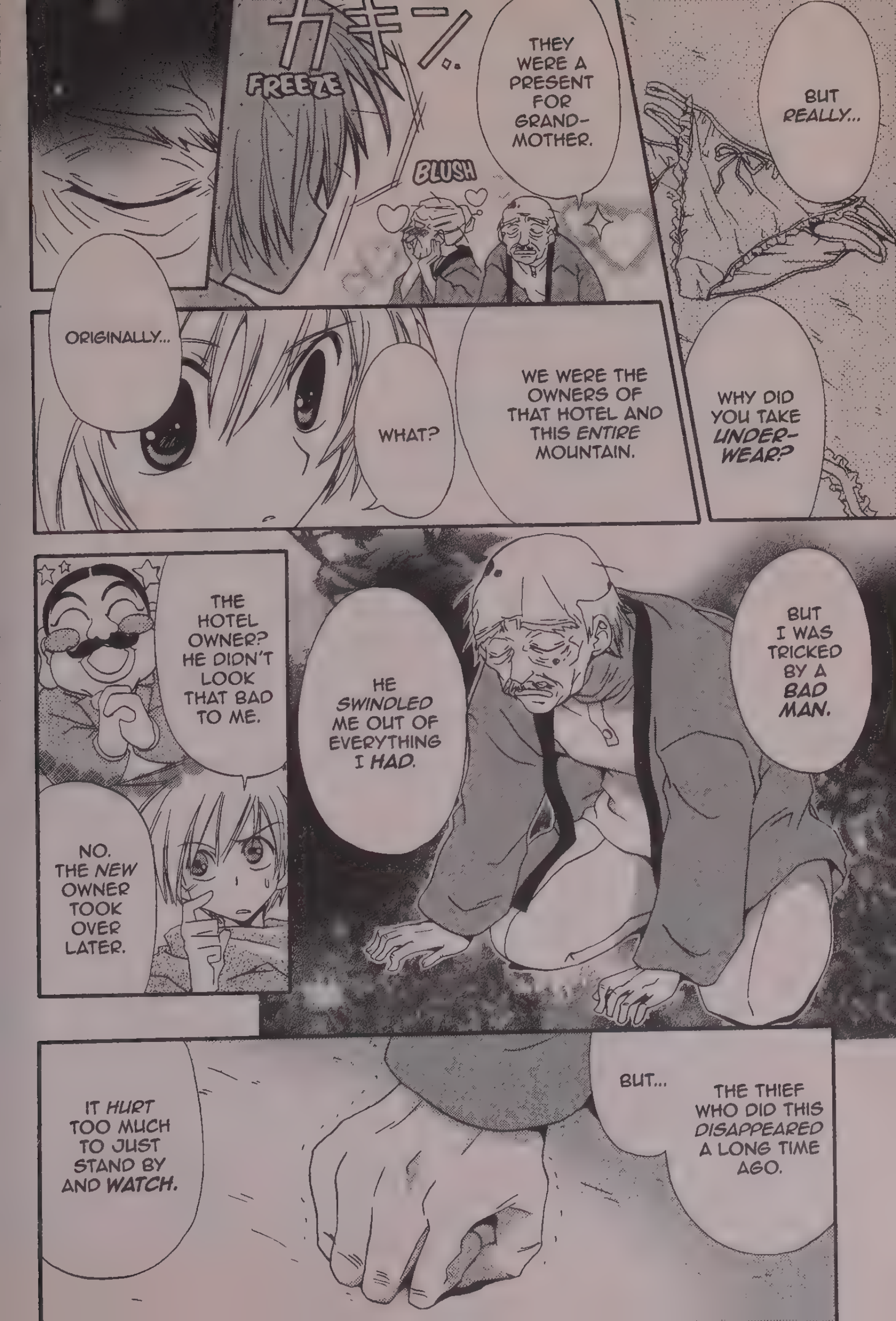

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
I MUST SAY, YOKO, YOUR SHUKUCHI IS TRULY AMAZING.
YOU HAD NO TROUBLE AT ALL HELPING THE NAKED ONE ESCAPE FROM THAT PRISON.
THANK YOU, TOMEKICHI. NOW, KEITA, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TELL ME?
I THINK THERE'S MORE THAN ONE SPIRIT AT WORK HERE.
MORE THAN ONE?
YEAH, IT WASN'T TOMEKICHI HAUNTING THE HOTEL.
IT WAS THAT OLD MAN.
HO HO HO!
HE'S THE REAL "SPIRIT" BEHIND IT ALL!
SO HE WAS A SPIRIT AFTER ALL!
YOU DUMMY!!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
HE'S JUST AN OLD FART WHO'S PRETENDING TO BE A GHOST.
AND BELIEVE ME...
I'M GONNA WRING HIS NECK UNTIL HE CONFESSES!!
温泉宿猫屋
CAT HOUSE HOT SPRINGS RESORT

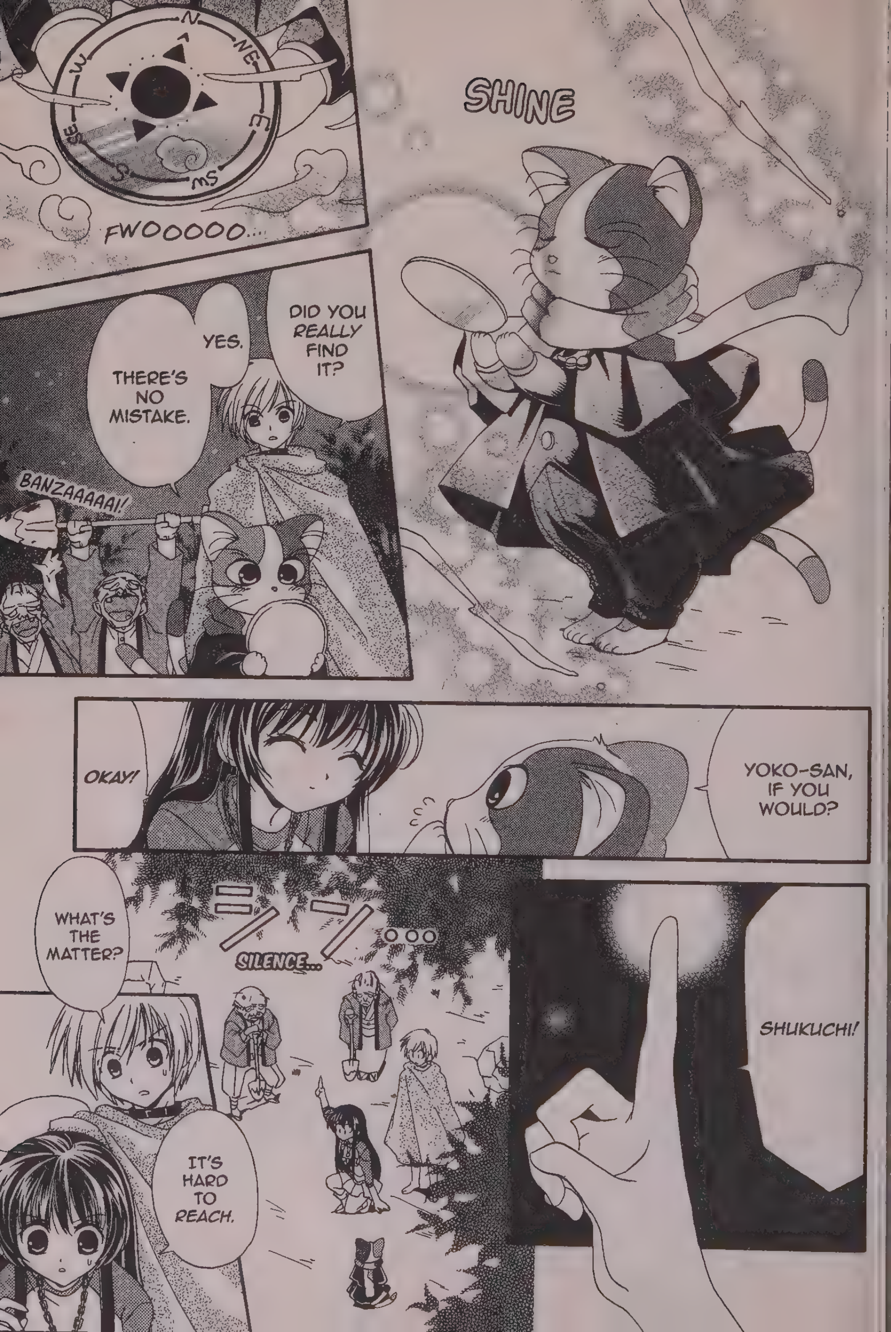

YOU ARE VERY PERCEPTIVE.
YES, WHEN I SAW HER *SHUKUCHI*...
I REALIZED THAT IT WAS MY ***BEST CHANCE*** TO PULL A BURIED STATUE FROM THE GROUND QUICKLY.
IF YOU COULD HELP, I WOULD BE *ETERNALLY* GRATEFUL.
AND I WOULD BE HAPPY TO *PAY YOU* BACK.
BLINK
BLINK
UH, TOMEKICHI...
DO YOU LIKE WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR?
MEOW?
I'LL HELP YOU, BUT...
MEOW...
FIRST, *COME WITH ME.*

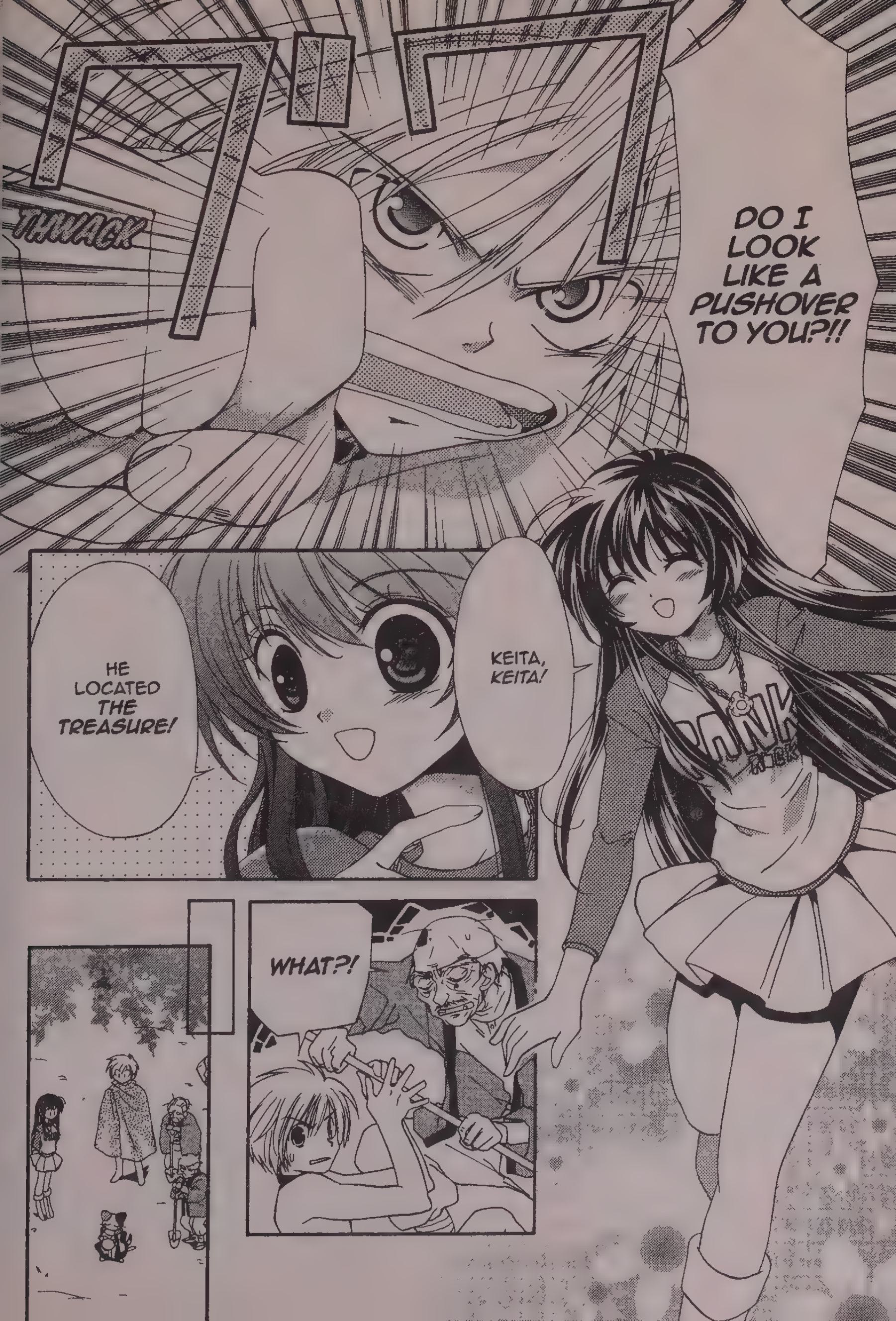

AH!
YOU THERE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY HOUSE?!
RUN, GRANDMOTHER!
THESE BURGLARS LIKE TO DO *FUNNY THINGS* TO WOMEN THESE DAYS!
OHH MY~!
BLUSH
NOW SHUT IT, GRANDPA!
YEAH RIGHT!!
WE'VE GOT THE EVIDENCE RIGHT HERE THAT *PROVES* YOU'RE THE HOTEL THIEF!!
SO DON'T ACT ALL INNOCENT!
HMPH...
YOU'D BETTER PREPARE FOR A LIFE *WITHOUT* YOUR WIFE'S COOKING!
ガック!!
SHOCK

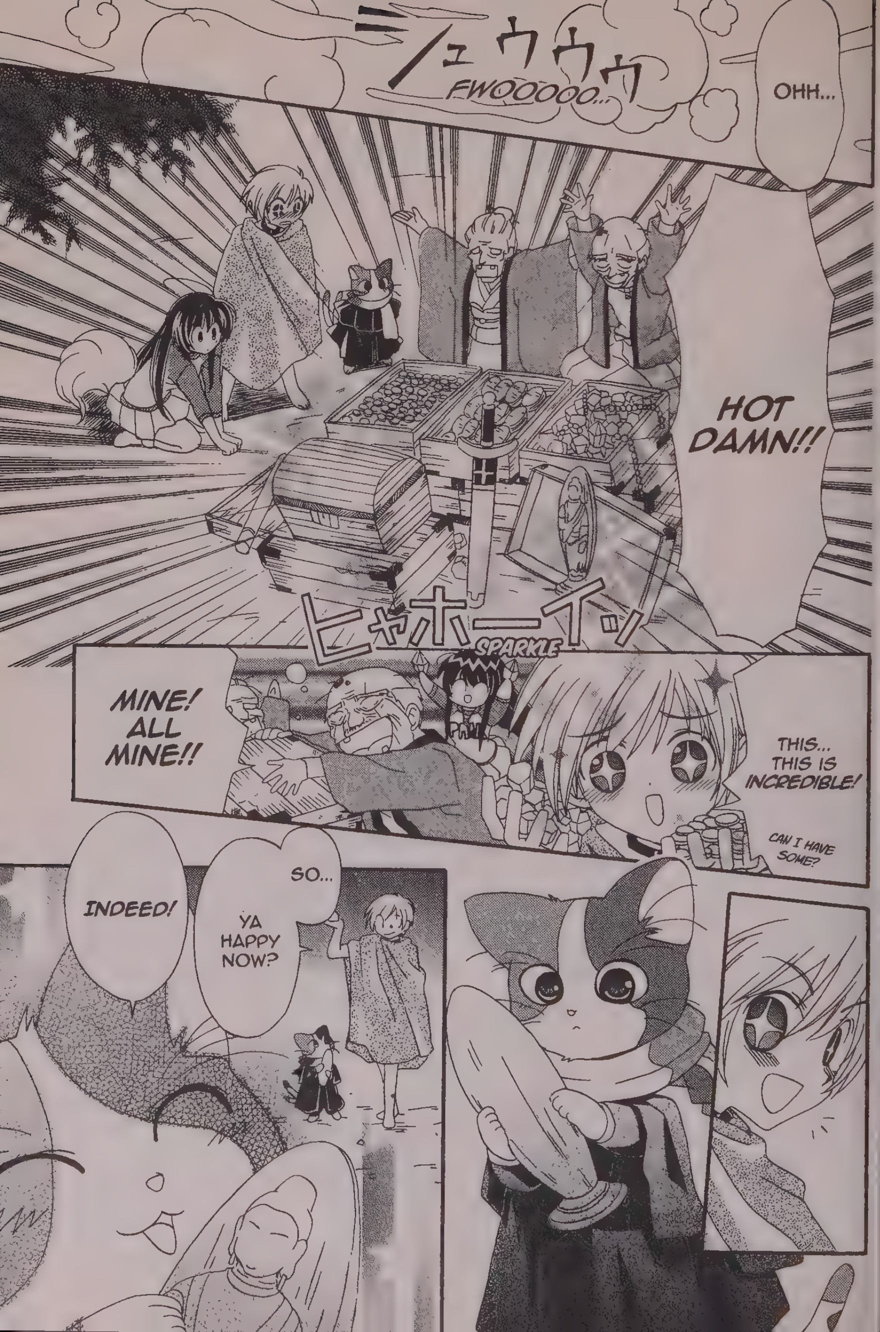

GIVE UP, YOU OLD FART!
WHAM!
SILENCE...
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
THERE'S NO ONE HERE.
BUT FROM THE LOOK OF THINGS, HE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR.
THOMP
THOMP
SLIDE
NOW TO SEARCH THE PREMISES.
WHUMP
THUD
WOW, THAT'S A LOT OF UNDER-WEAR.
HUH... IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE RIGHT.
RUSTLE

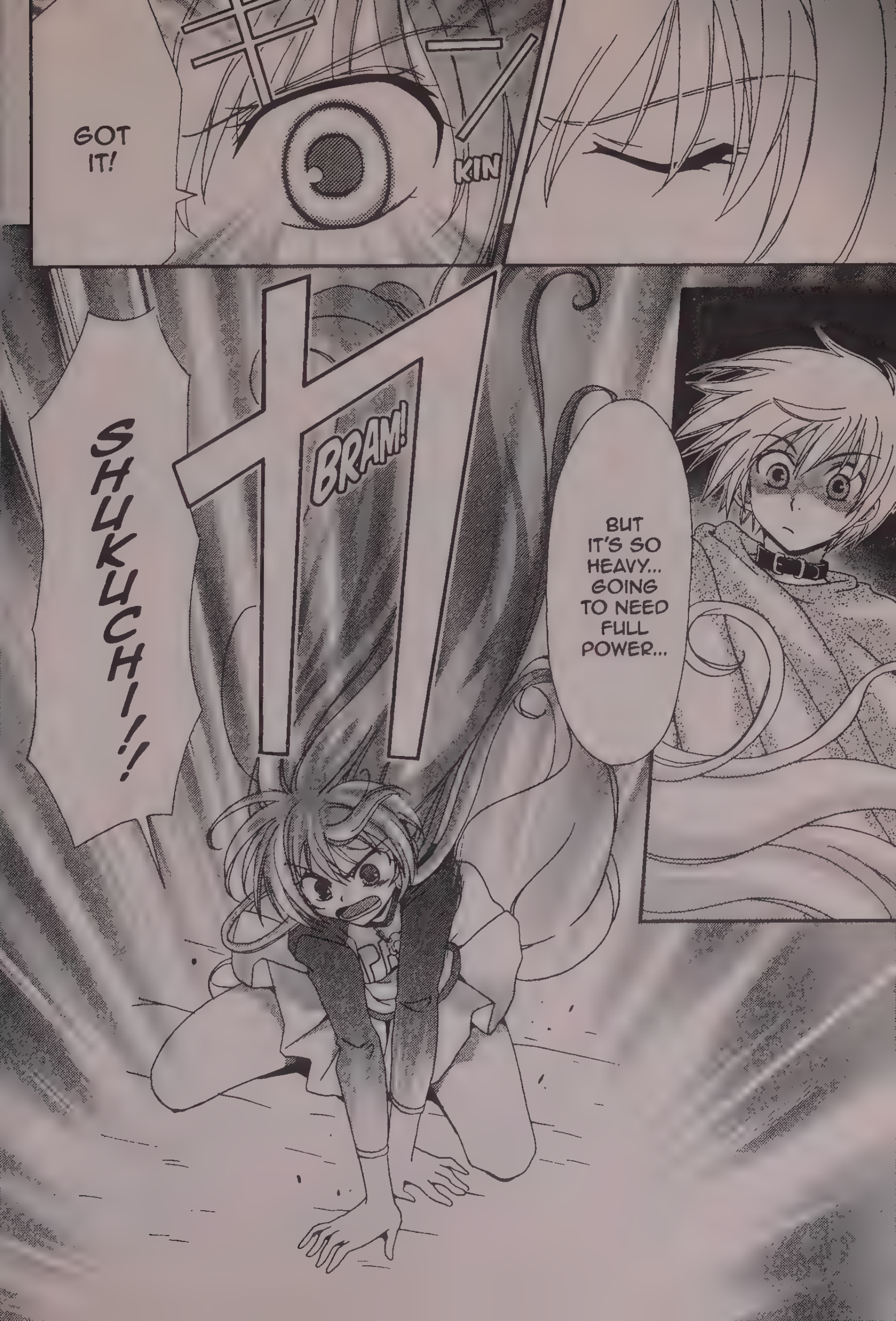

ALL WE HAD LEFT WAS A PLOT OF LAND NO BIGGER THAN A *CAT'S FOREHEAD.*
AND A *MAP...*
THAT'S WHY THIS PLACE IS CALLED THE CAT HOUSE.
A MAP?
MY ANCESTOR OWNED A *LARGE* PLOT OF LAND.
AND THE MAP SHOWS THE *VERY SPOT* WHERE THE FAMILY *TREASURE* WAS BURIED.
BUT I NEVER *COULD* FIGURE OUT THE MAP.
I CAN SEE THAT IT SHOWS A PLACE *NEAR* HERE...
OH, SO YOU TWO DUG ALL THOSE *HOLES.*
THESE TWO...
SEEM...
SO PATHETIC.
THAT'S WHY WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE CAUGHT.
BUT IF YOU JUST *DISAPPEAR,* EVERYTHING WILL BLOW OVER. YOU WON'T REFUSE US THIS LITTLE *FAVOR,* WILL YOU?
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
HA!

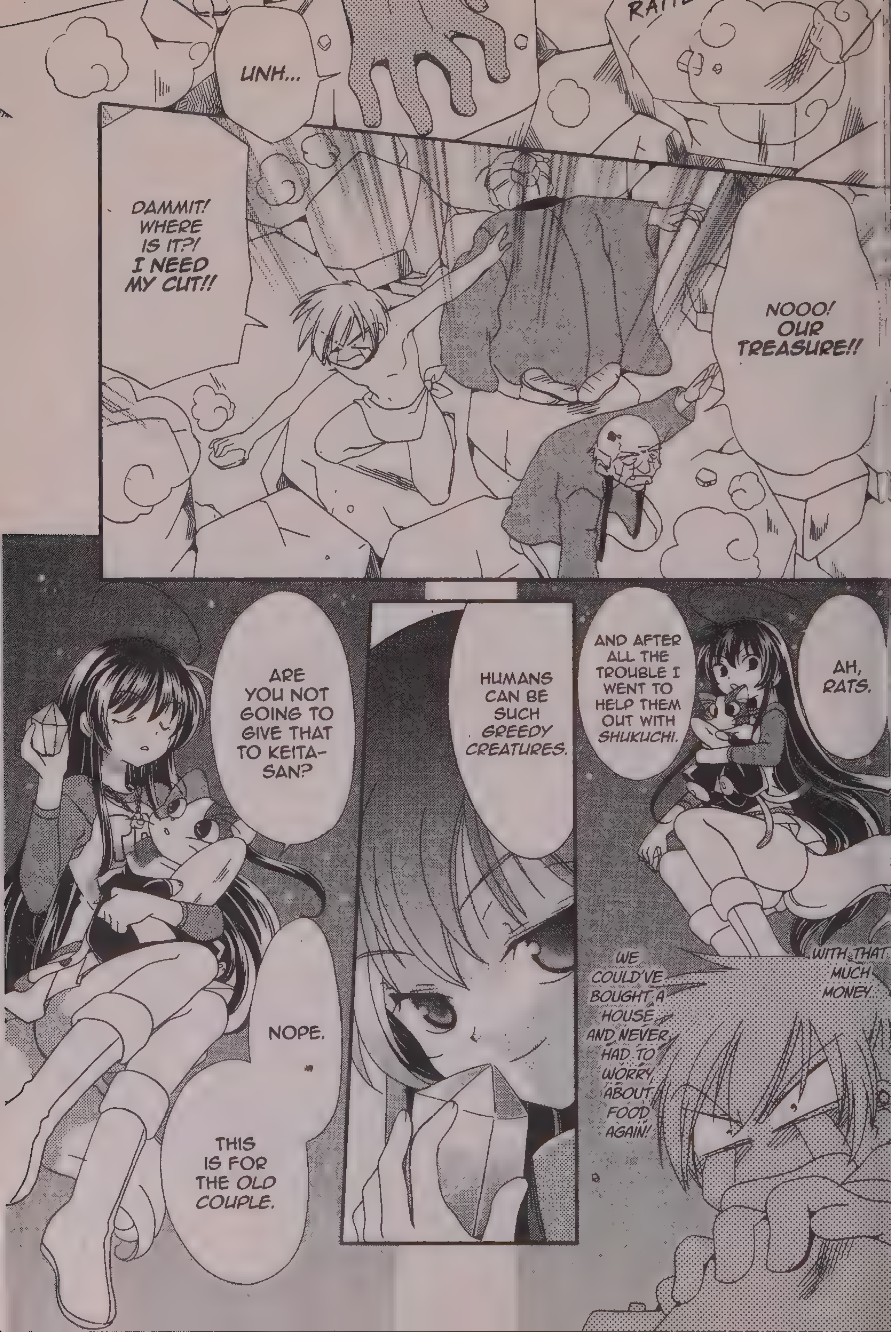

BUT REALLY...
WHY DID YOU TAKE UNDERWEAR?
THEY WERE A PRESENT FOR GRANDMOTHER.
BLUSH
カキーン。
FREEZE
ORIGINALLY...
WE WERE THE OWNERS OF THAT HOTEL AND THIS ENTIRE MOUNTAIN.
WHAT?
BUT I WAS TRICKED BY A BAD MAN.
HE SWINDLED ME OUT OF EVERYTHING I HAD.
THE HOTEL OWNER? HE DIDN'T LOOK THAT BAD TO ME.
NO. THE NEW OWNER TOOK OVER LATER.
THE THIEF WHO DID THIS DISAPPEARED A LONG TIME AGO.
BUT...
IT HURT TOO MUCH TO JUST STAND BY AND WATCH.

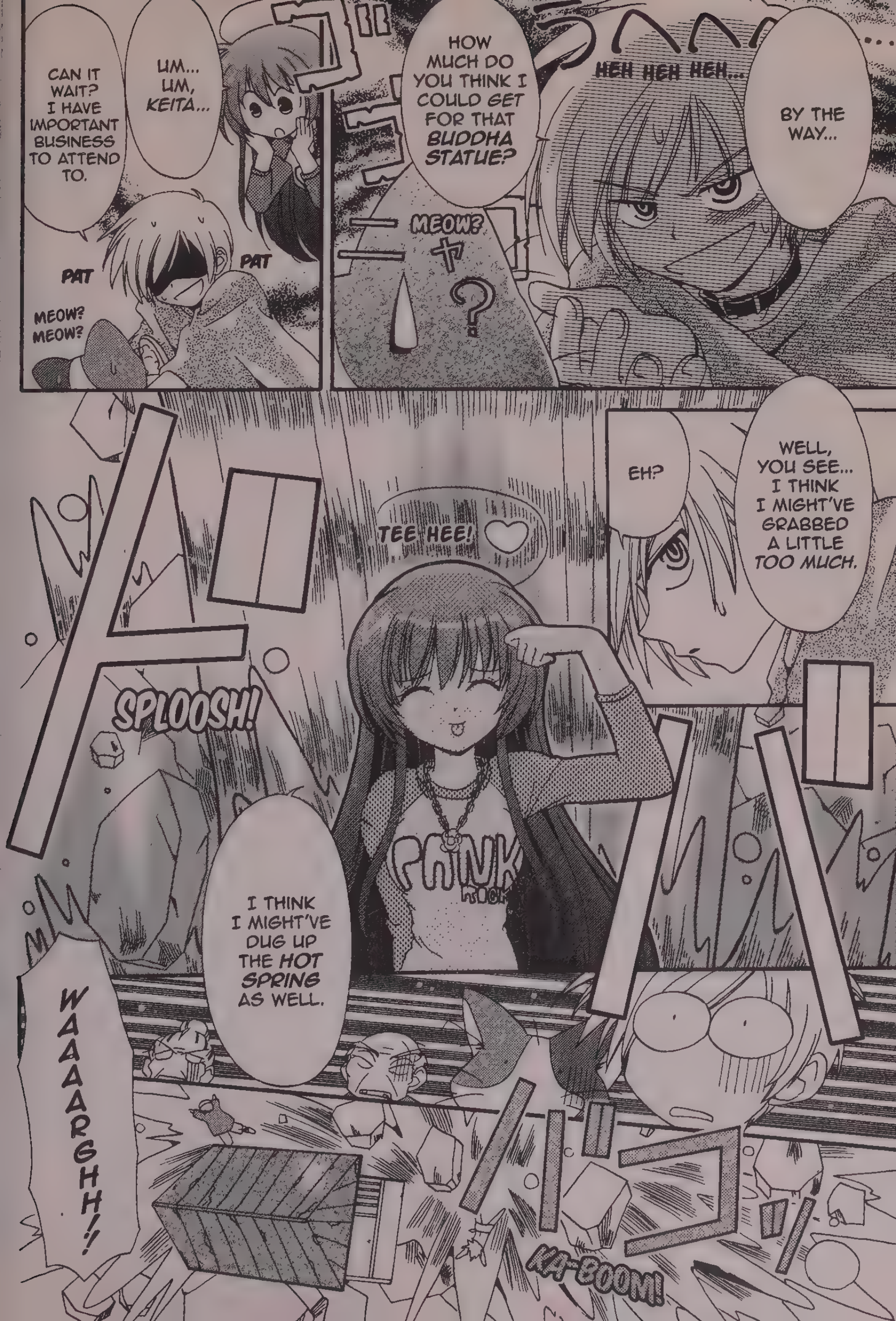

SHINE
N
NE
E
SW
S
SE
W
FWOOOOO...
DID YOU REALLY FIND IT?
YES. THERE'S NO MISTAKE.
BANZAAAAAI!
YOKO-SAN, IF YOU WOULD?
OKAY!
SHUKUCHI!
...
SILENCE...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IT'S HARD TO REACH.

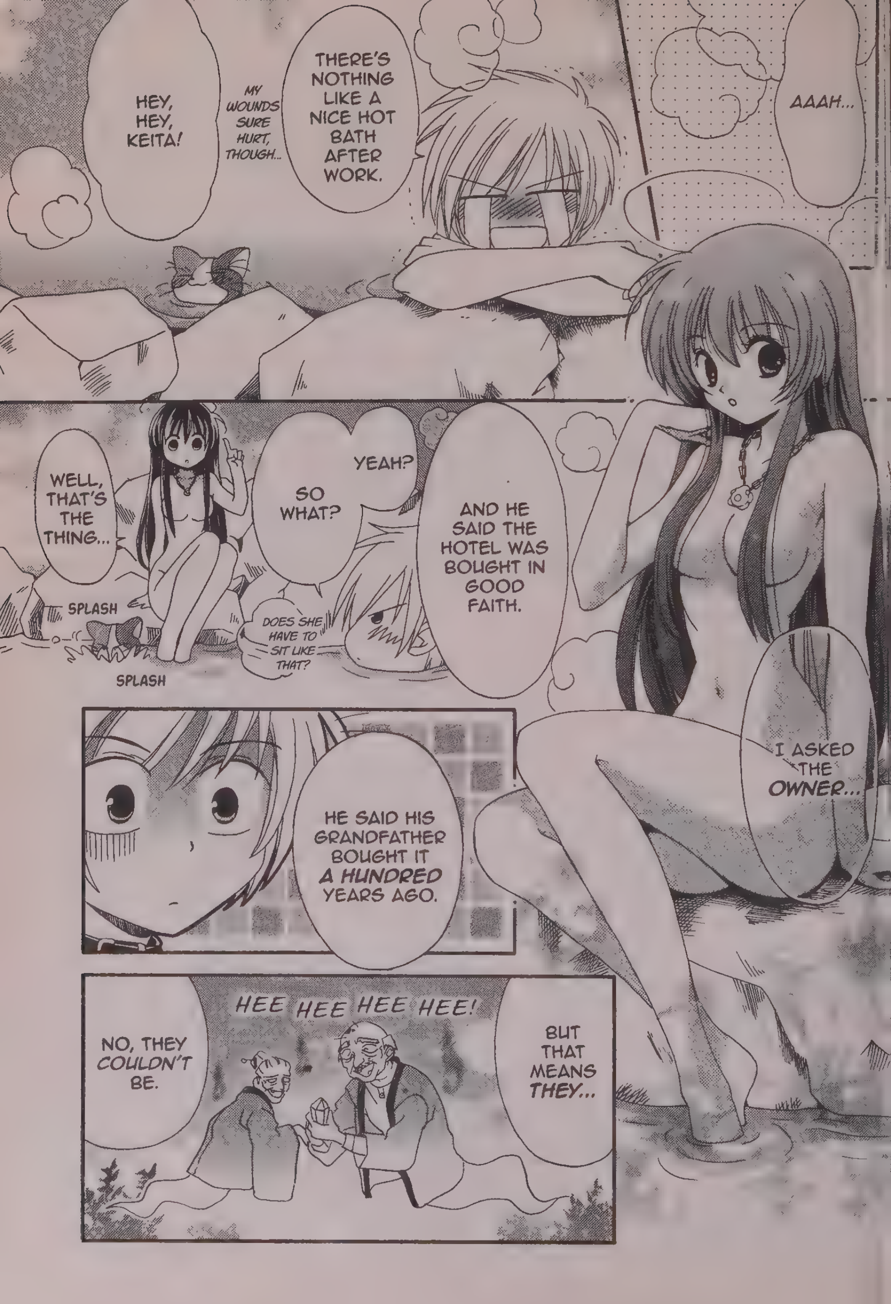

DO I LOOK LIKE A PUSHOVER TO YOU?!!
THWACK
KEITA, KEITA!
HE LOCATED THE TREASURE!
WHAT?!

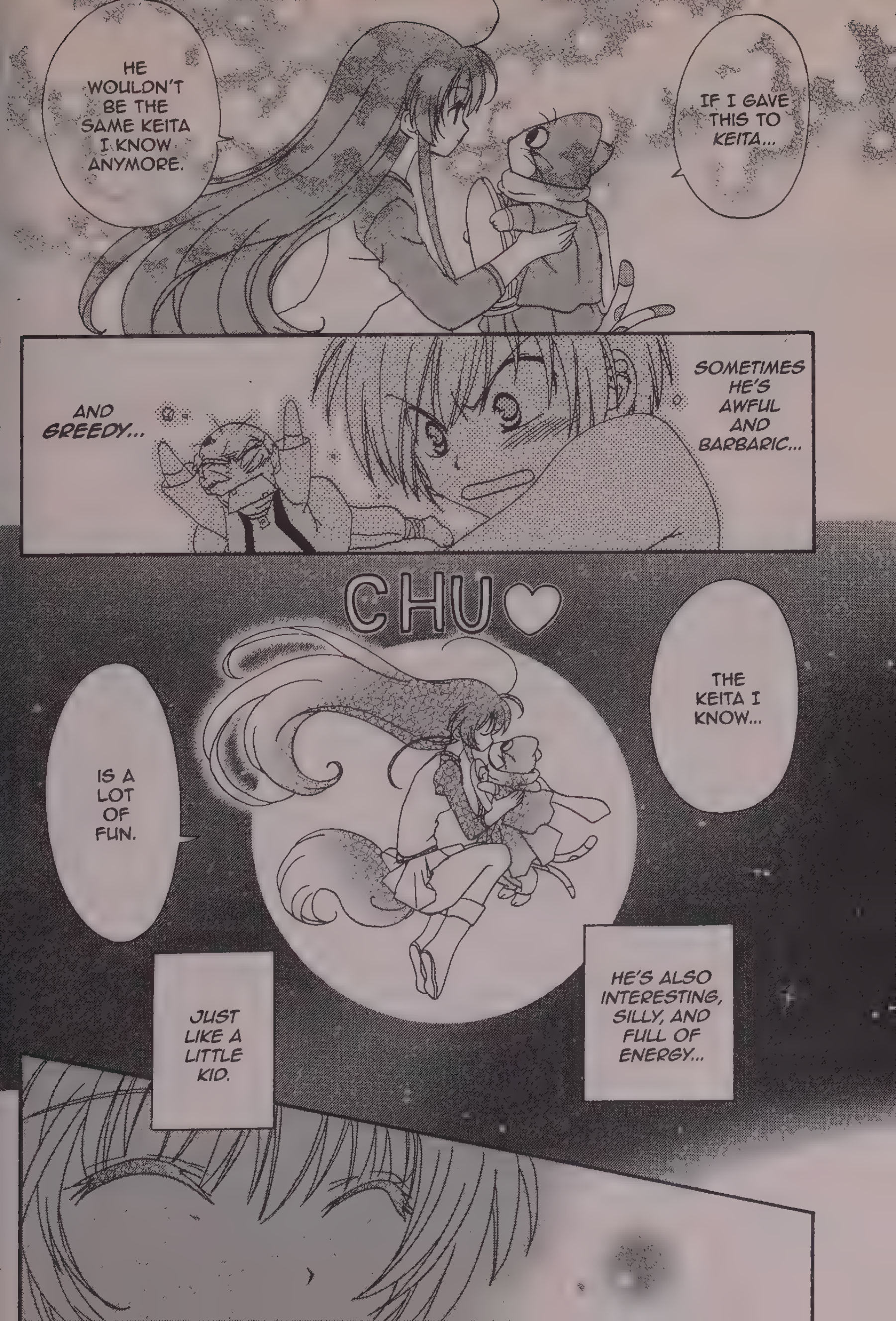

シュウウウ
FWOOOOO...
OHH...
HOT DAMN!!
ヒャホーイッ!
THIS... THIS IS INCREDIBLE!
CAN I HAVE SOME?
SPARKLE
MINE! ALL MINE!!
SO...
YA HAPPY NOW?
INDEED!

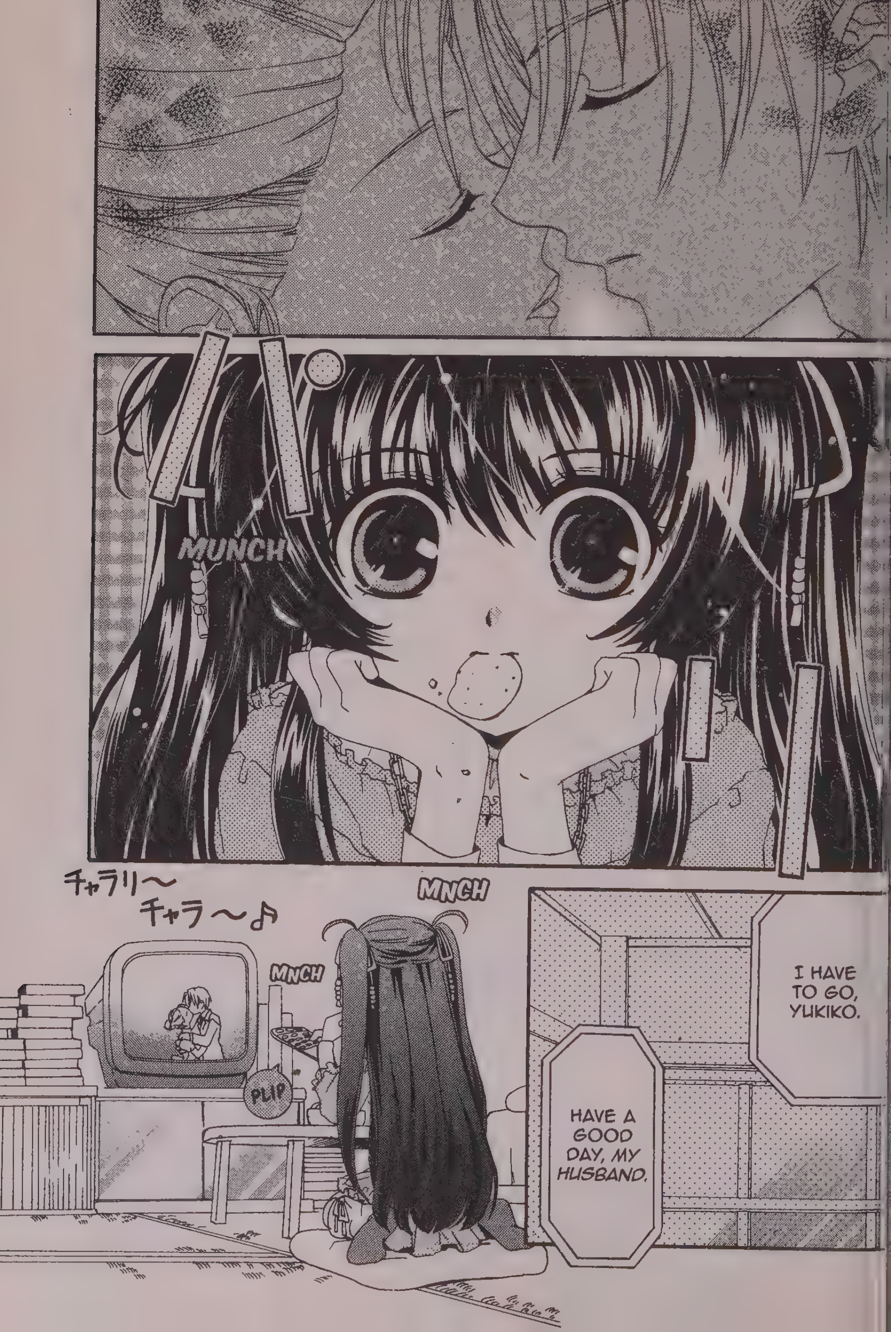

KIN
GOT IT!
BUT IT'S SO HEAVY... GOING TO NEED FULL POWER...
BRAM!
SHUKUCHI!!

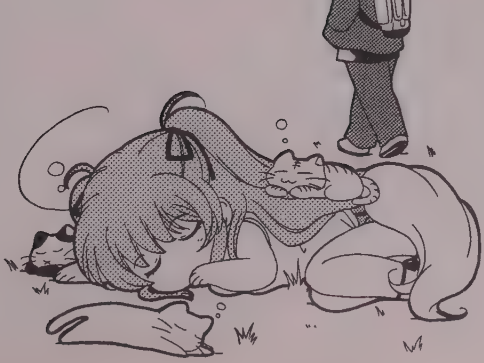

RATTL
UNH...
NOOO! OUR TREASURE!!
DAMMIT! WHERE IS IT?! I NEED MY CUT!!
AH, RATS.
AND AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE I WENT TO HELP THEM OUT WITH SHUKUCHI.
WITH THAT MUCH MONEY...
WE COULD'VE BOUGHT A HOUSE AND NEVER HAD TO WORRY ABOUT FOOD AGAIN!
HUMANS CAN BE SUCH GREEDY CREATURES.
ARE YOU NOT GOING TO GIVE THAT TO KEITA-SAN?
NOPE.
THIS IS FOR THE OLD COUPLE.


BY THE WAY...
HEH HEH HEH...
HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK I COULD GET FOR THAT *BUDDHA STATUE?*
MEOW?
UM... UM, KEITA...
CAN IT WAIT? I HAVE IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.
PAT
PAT
MEOW? MEOW?
WELL, YOU SEE... I THINK I MIGHT'VE GRABBED A LITTLE *TOO MUCH.*
EH?
TEE HEE!
I THINK I MIGHT'VE DUG UP THE *HOT SPRING* AS WELL.
SPLOOSH!
WAAAAARGHH!!
KA-BOOM!

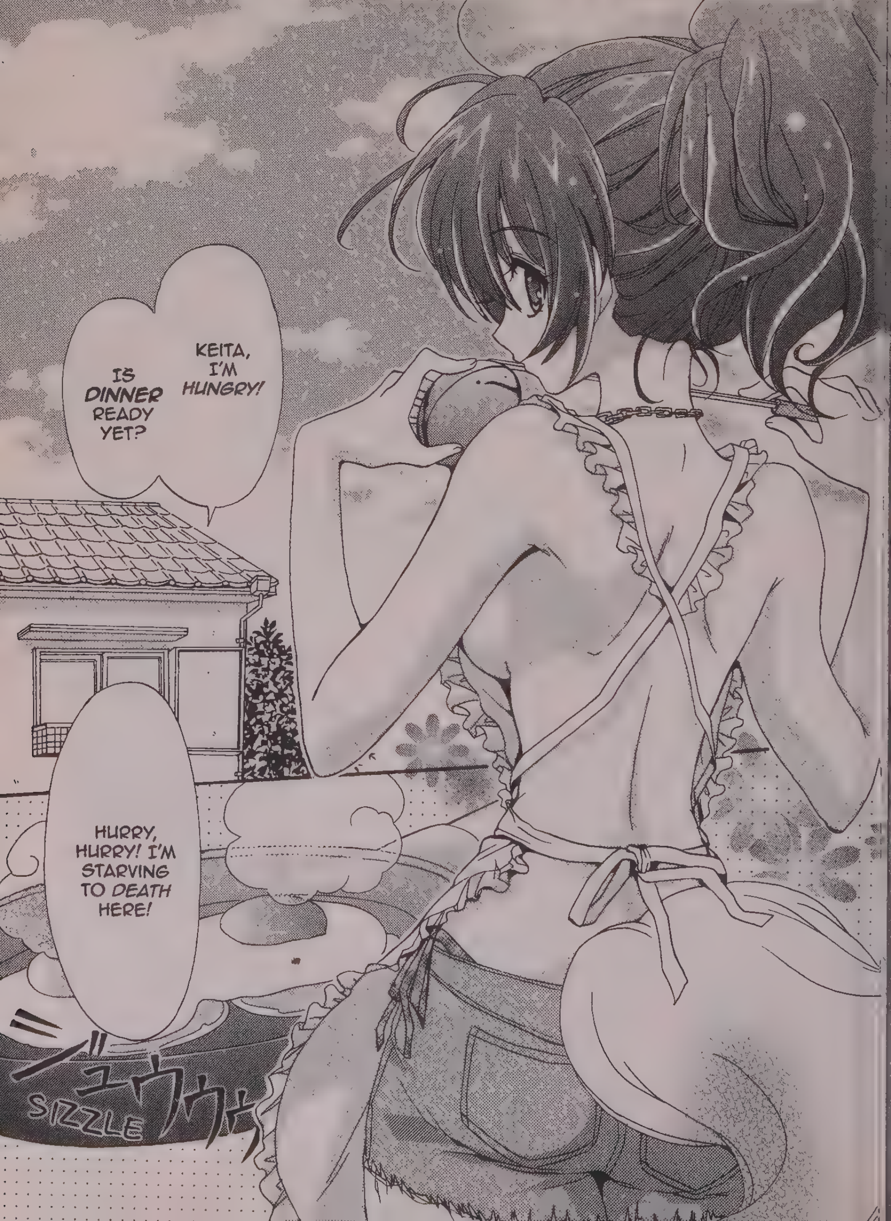

AAAH...
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A NICE HOT BATH AFTER WORK.
MY WOUNDS SURE HURT, THOUGH...
HEY, HEY, KEITA!
I ASKED THE OWNER...
AND HE SAID THE HOTEL WAS BOUGHT IN GOOD FAITH.
YEAH?
SO WHAT?
DOES SHE HAVE TO SIT LIKE THAT?
WELL, THAT'S THE THING...
SPLASH
SPLASH
HE SAID HIS GRANDFATHER BOUGHT IT A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.
BUT THAT MEANS THEY...
HEE HEE HEE HEE!
NO, THEY COULDN'T BE.

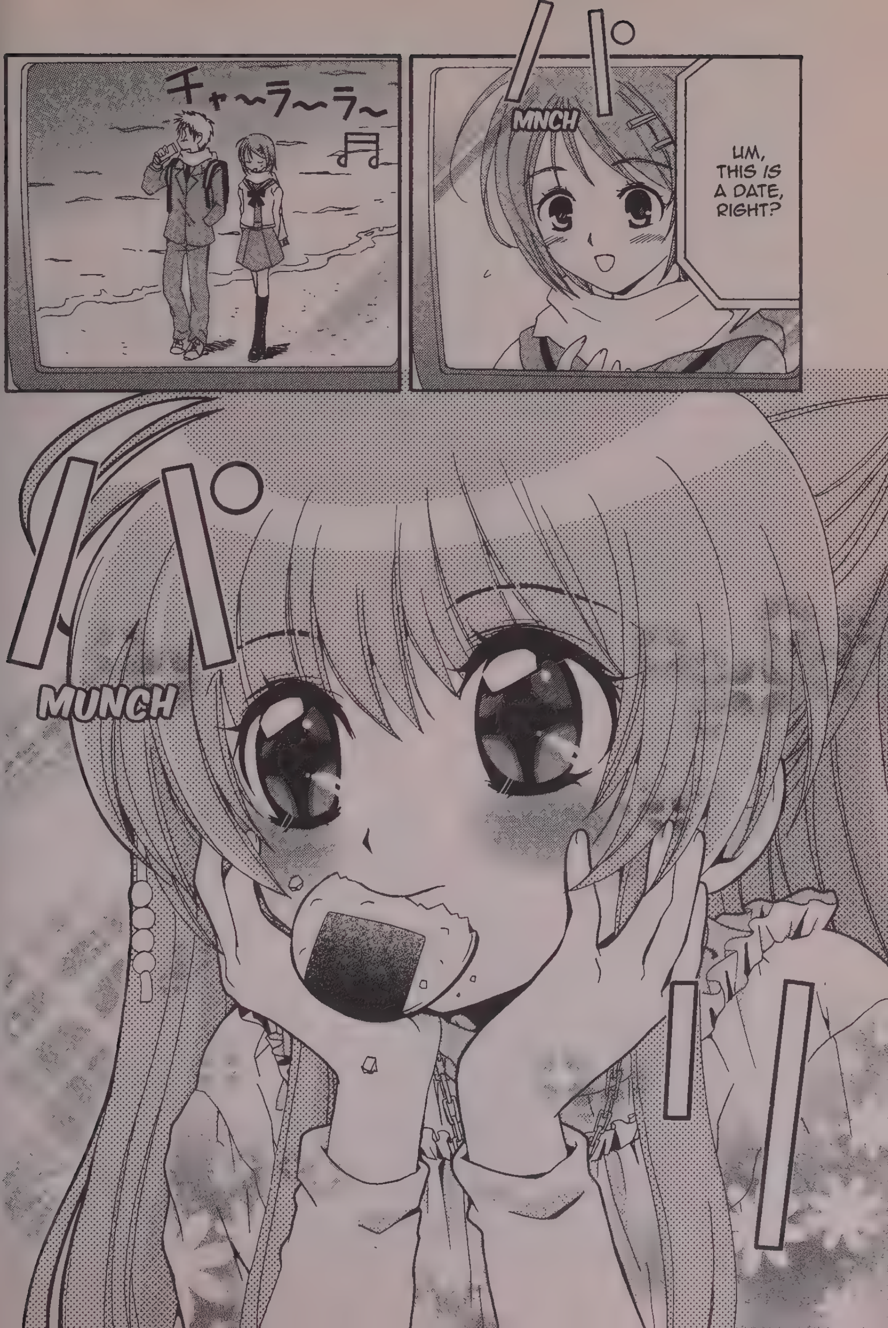

IF I GAVE THIS TO KEITA...
HE WOULDN'T BE THE SAME KEITA I KNOW ANYMORE.
SOMETIMES HE'S AWFUL AND BARBARIC...
AND GREEDY...
CHU♥
THE KEITA I KNOW...
IS A LOT OF FUN.
HE'S ALSO INTERESTING, SILLY, AND FULL OF ENERGY...
JUST LIKE A LITTLE KID.

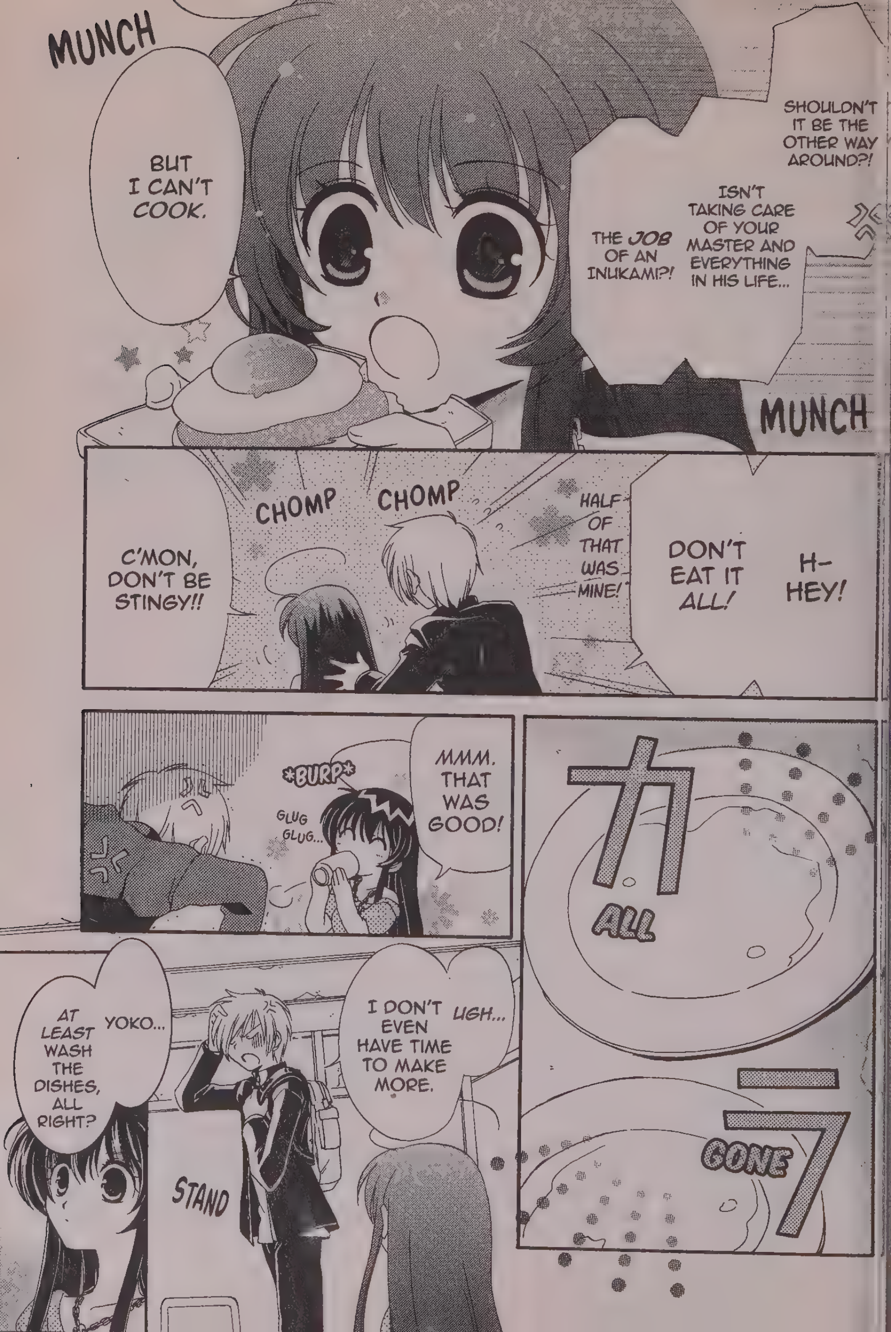

MUNCH
I HAVE TO GO, YUKIKO.
HAVE A GOOD DAY, MY HUSBAND.
チャラリ～ チャラ～♪
MNCH
MNCH
PLIP

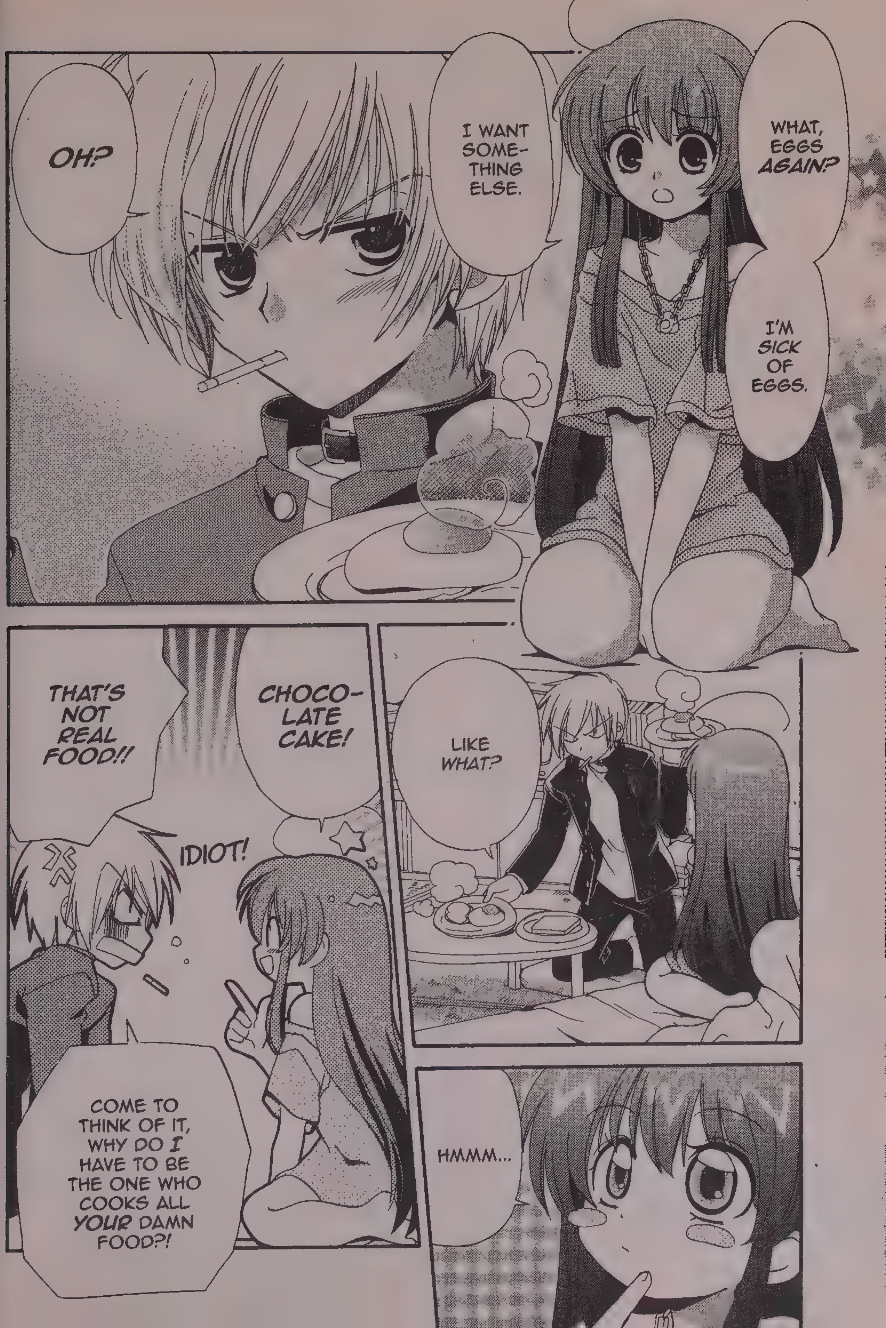


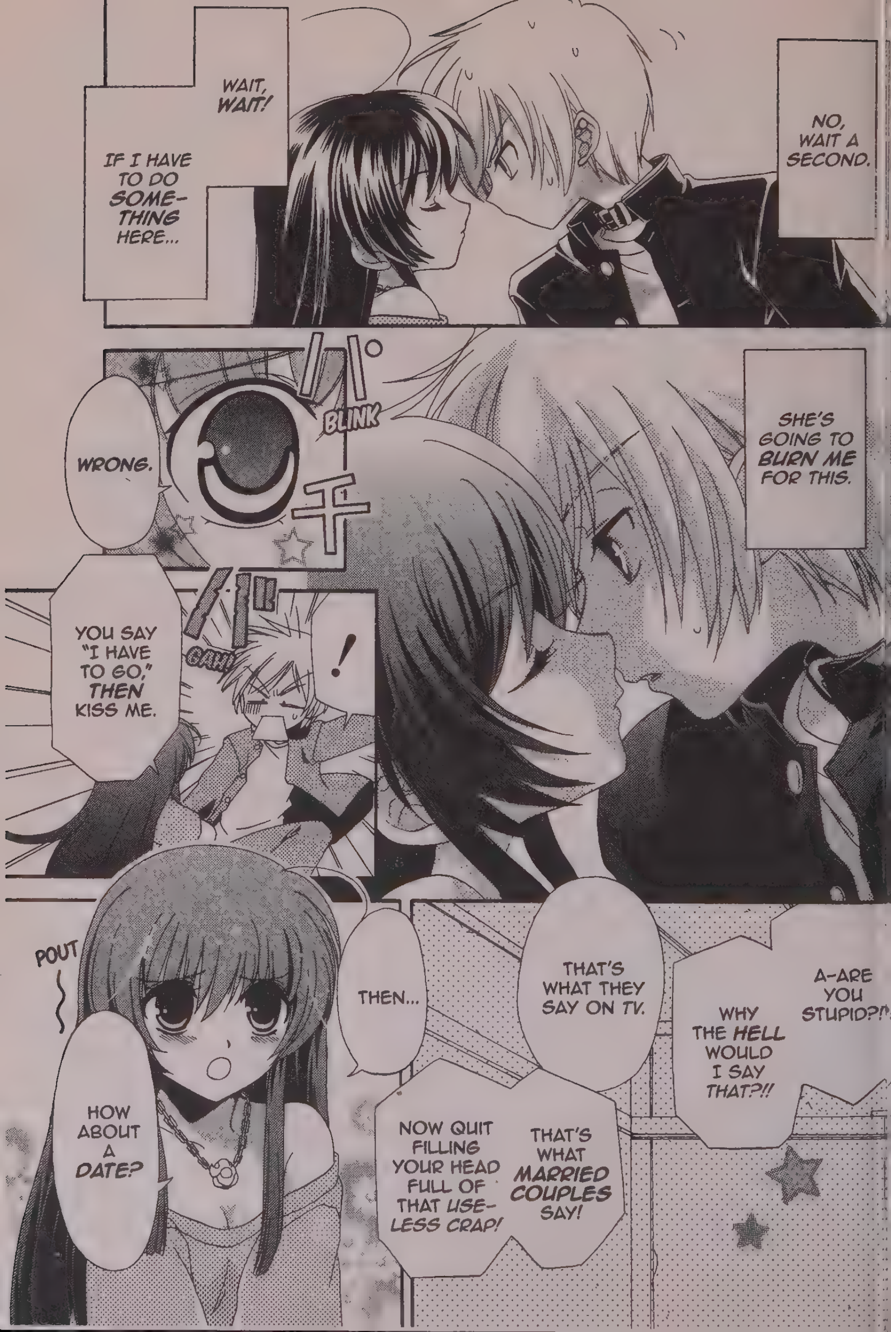
Step.4 A Date with Yoko

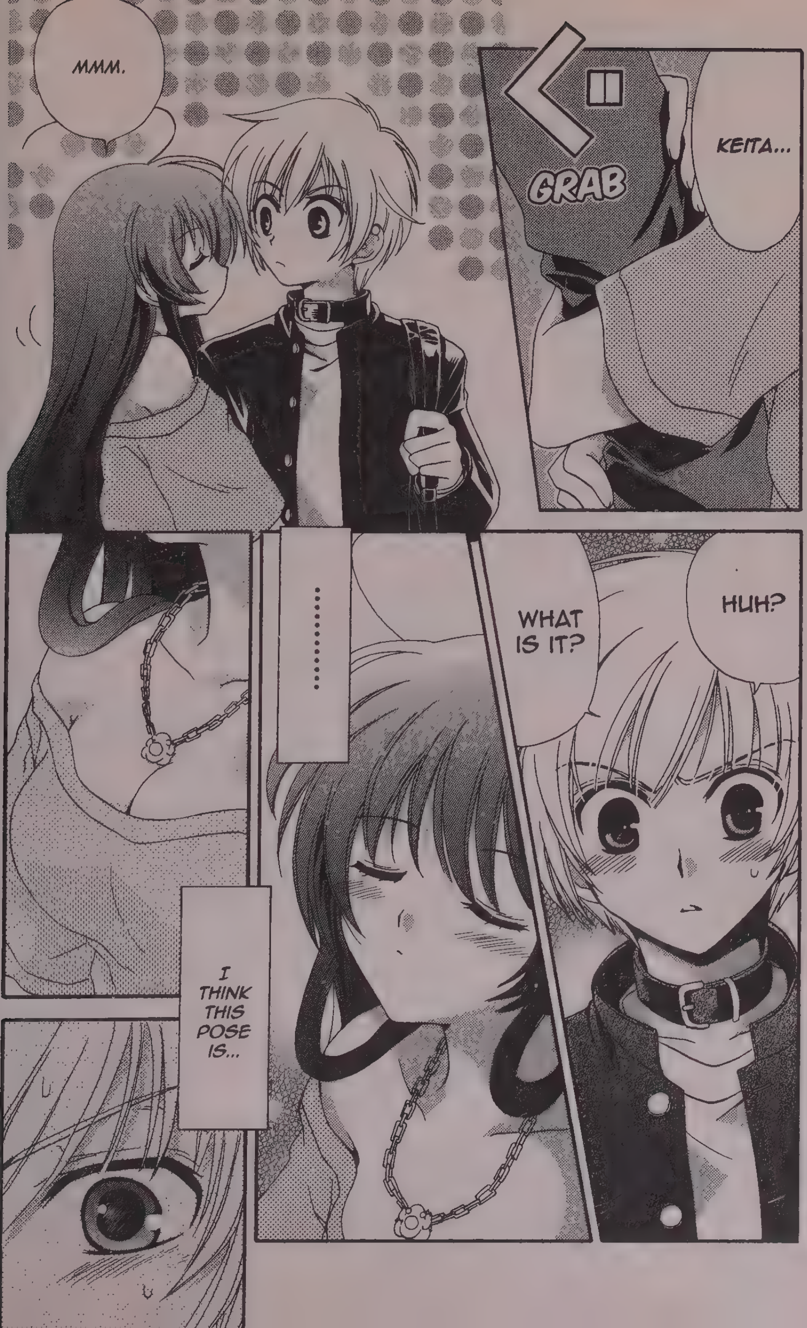

KEITA, I'M *HUNGRY!*
IS *DINNER* READY YET?
HURRY, HURRY! I'M STARVING TO *DEATH* HERE!
ジュウウウ
SIZZLE

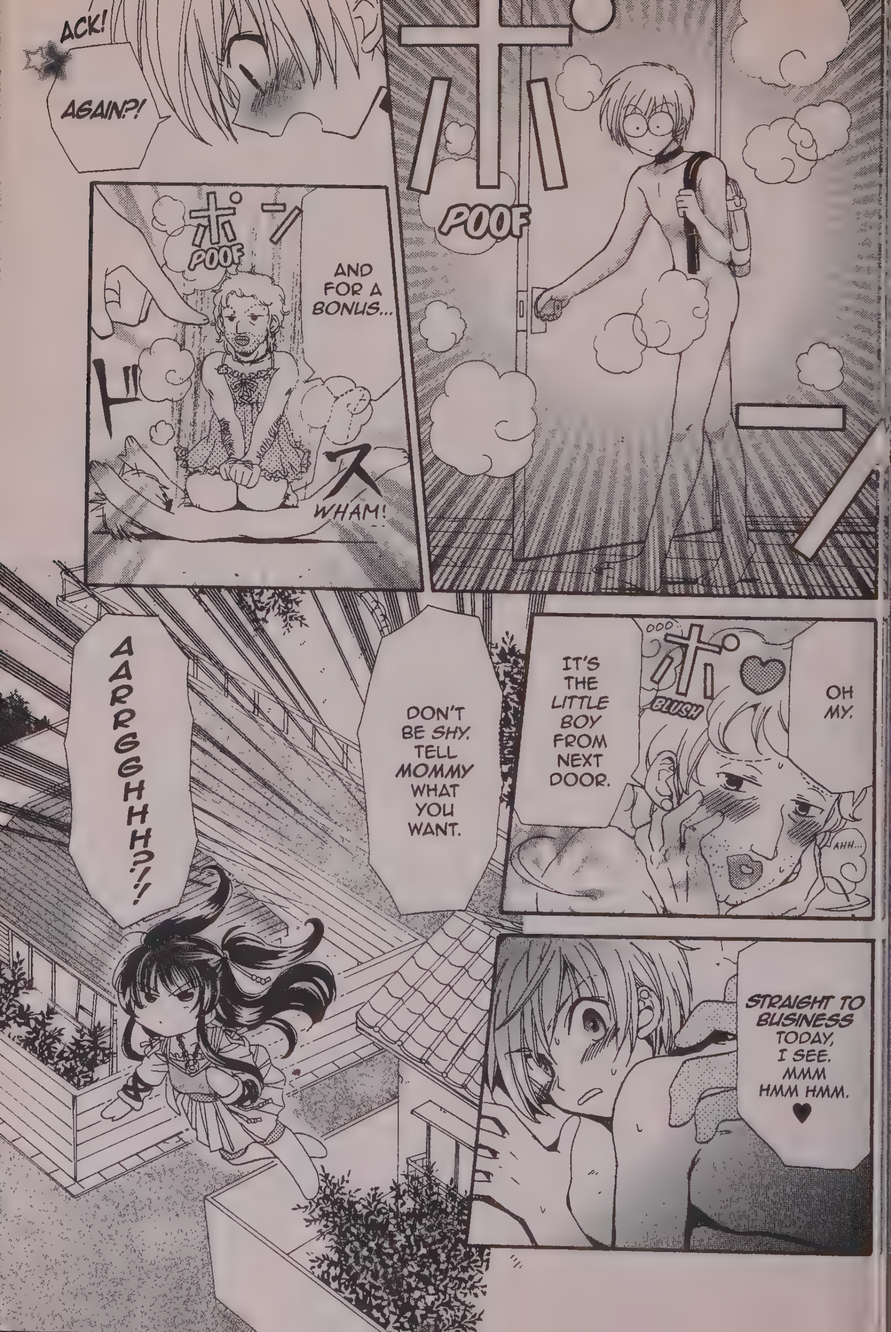

パ
MNCH
UM, THIS IS A DATE, RIGHT?
チャ〜ラ〜ラ〜
パ
MUNCH
リ

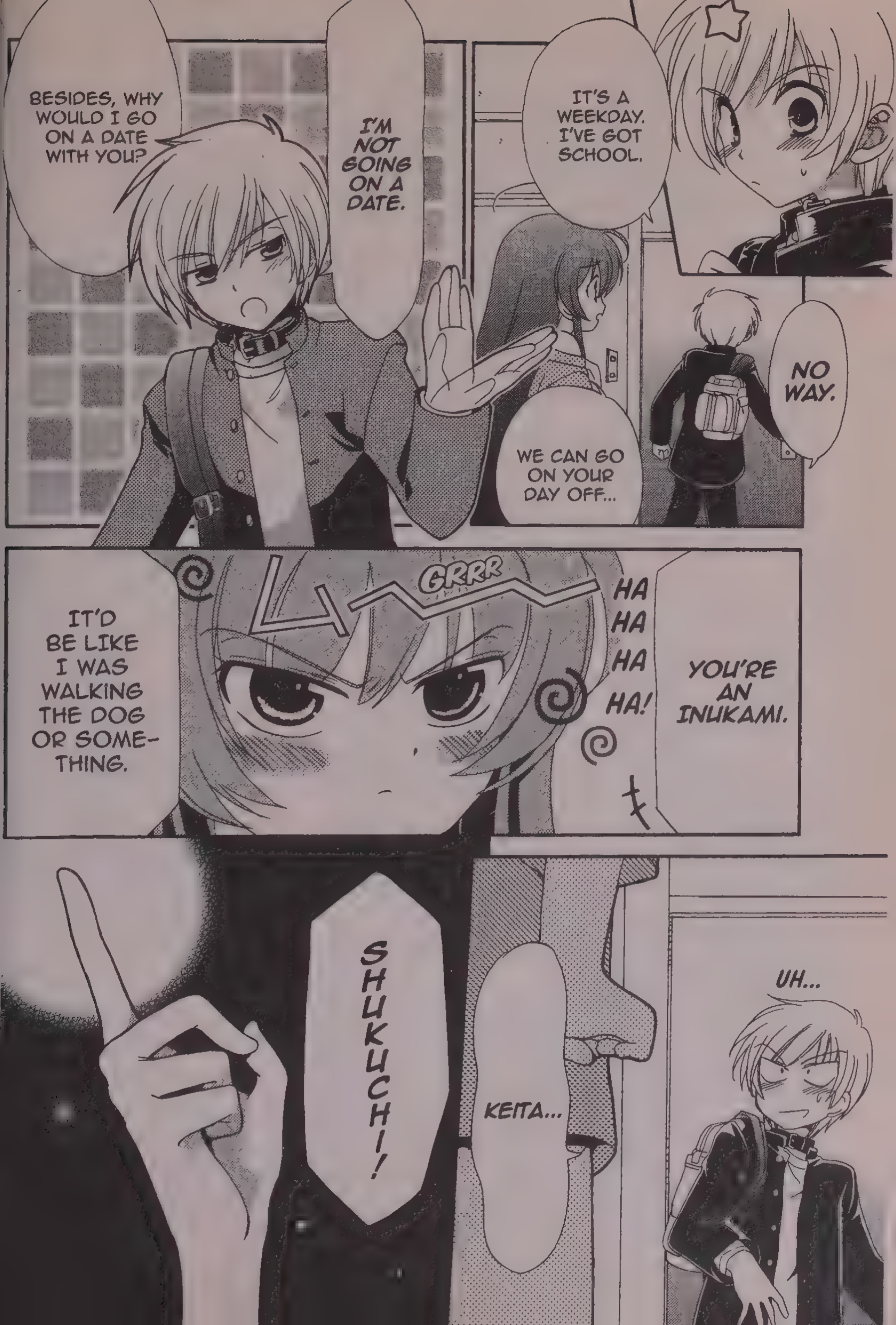

SHOULDN'T IT BE THE OTHER WAY AROUND?!
ISN'T TAKING CARE OF YOUR MASTER AND EVERYTHING IN HIS LIFE...
THE *JOB* OF AN INUKAMI?!
MUNCH
BUT I CAN'T COOK.
MUNCH
H-HEY!
DON'T EAT IT ALL!
HALF OF THAT WAS MINE!
CHOMP CHOMP
C'MON, DON'T BE STINGY!!
カ ALL
ラ GONE
MMM. THAT WAS GOOD!
BURP
GLUG GLUG...
UGH...
I DON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO MAKE MORE.
YOKO...
AT LEAST WASH THE DISHES, ALL RIGHT?
STAND

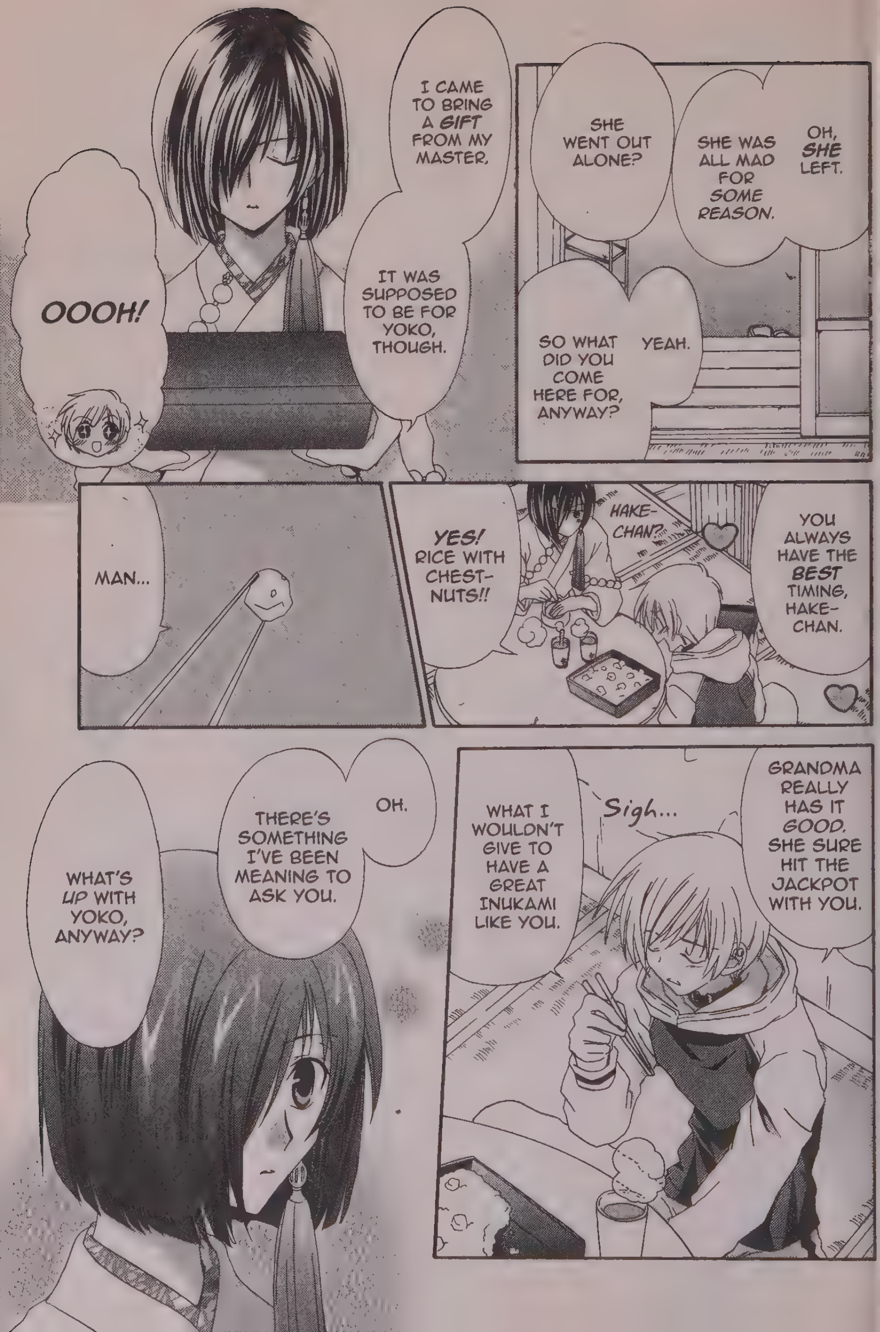

WHAT, EGGS *AGAIN?*
I'M SICK OF EGGS.
I WANT SOMETHING ELSE.
OH?
LIKE *WHAT?*
CHOCOLATE CAKE!
THAT'S NOT REAL FOOD!!
IDIOT!
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHY DO *I* HAVE TO BE THE ONE WHO COOKS ALL *YOUR* DAMN FOOD?!
HMMM...

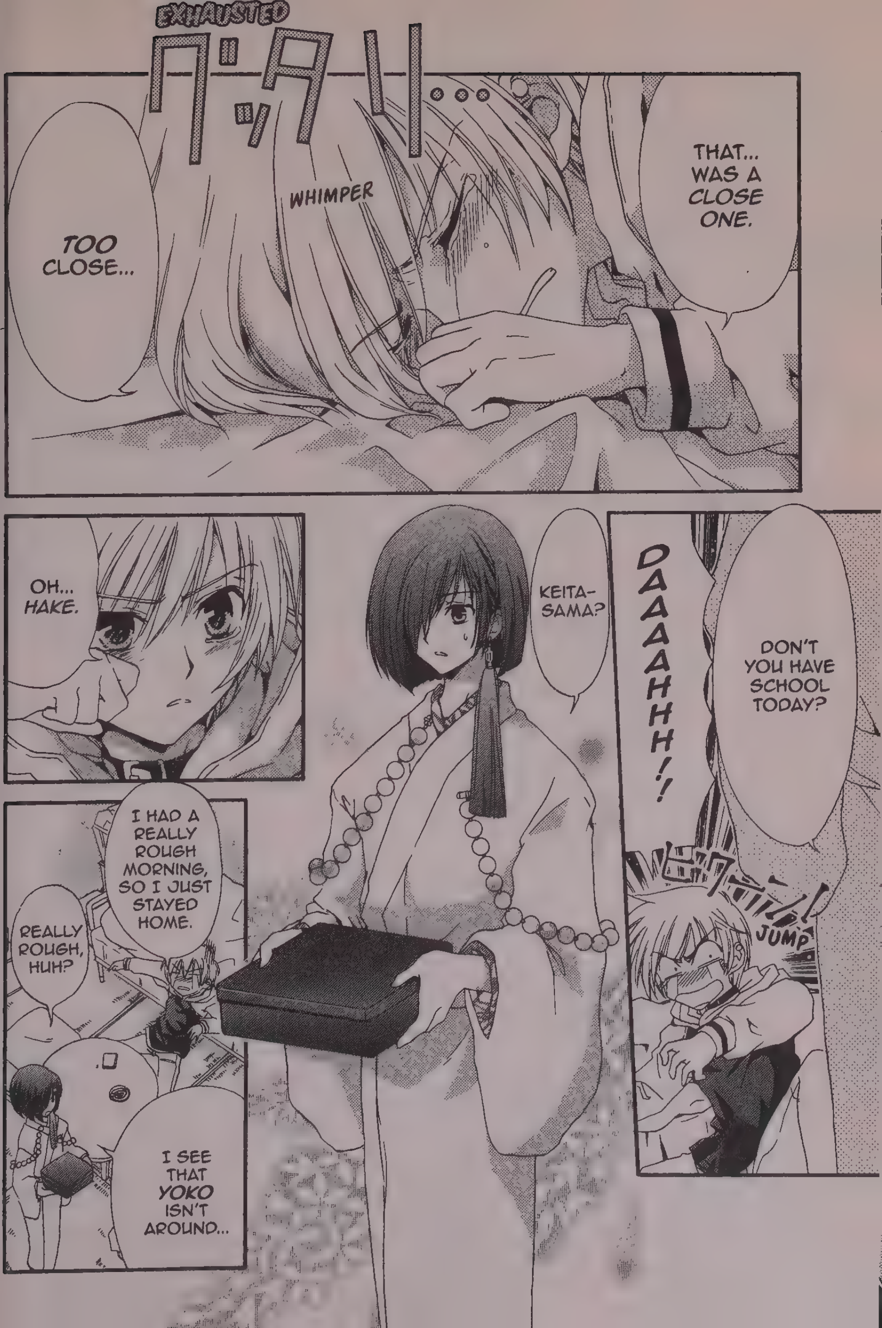

NO, WAIT A SECOND.
WAIT, WAIT!
IF I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING HERE...
SHE'S GOING TO BURN ME FOR THIS.
パチ
BLINK
WRONG.
!
GAH!
YOU SAY "I HAVE TO GO," THEN KISS ME.
A-ARE YOU STUPID?!!
WHY THE HELL WOULD I SAY THAT?!!
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY ON TV.
THAT'S WHAT MARRIED COUPLES SAY!
NOW QUIT FILLING YOUR HEAD FULL OF THAT USELESS CRAP!
THEN...
POUT
HOW ABOUT A DATE?

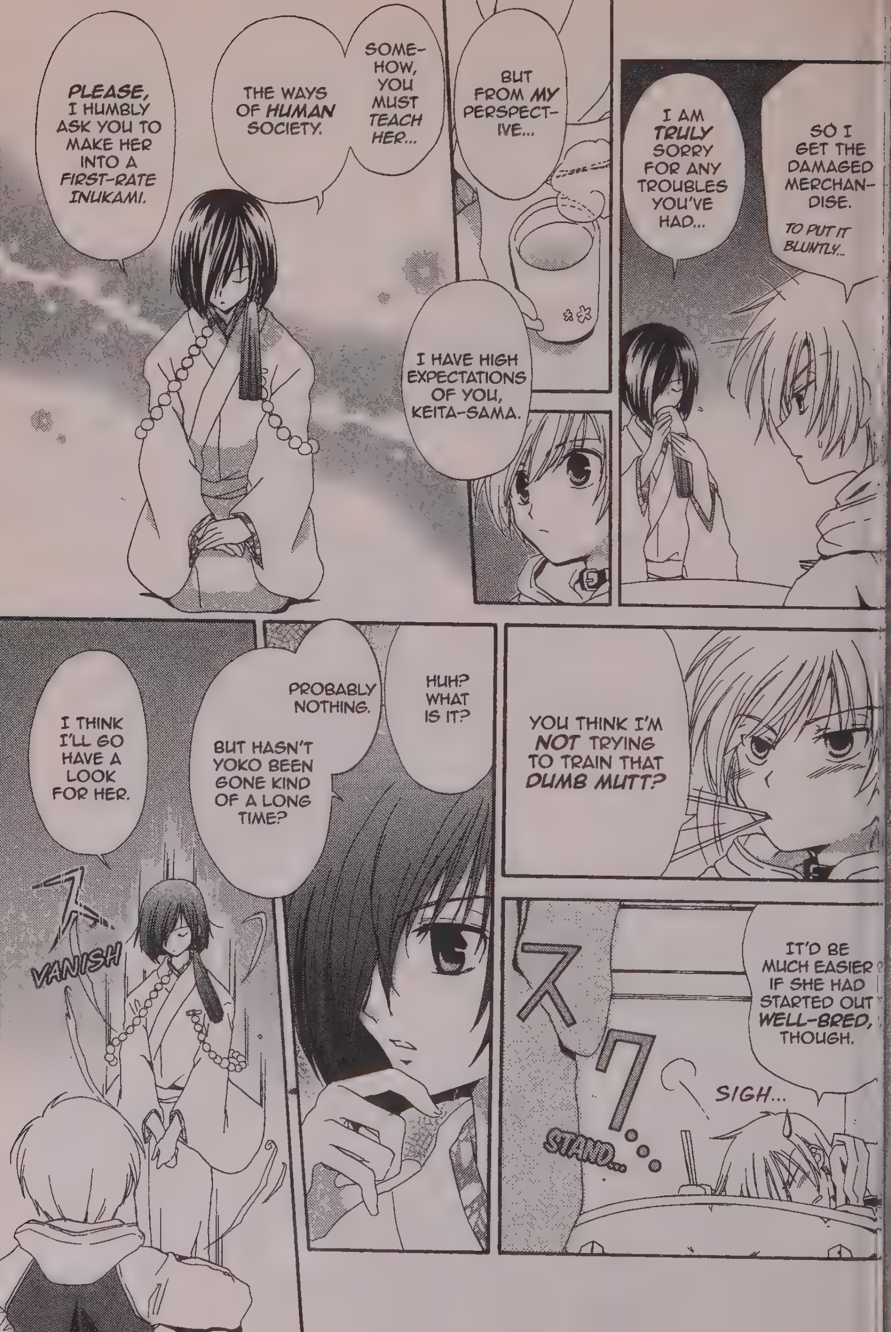

ぐ
GRAB
KEITA...
MMM.
HUH?
WHAT IS IT?
....
I THINK THIS POSE IS...

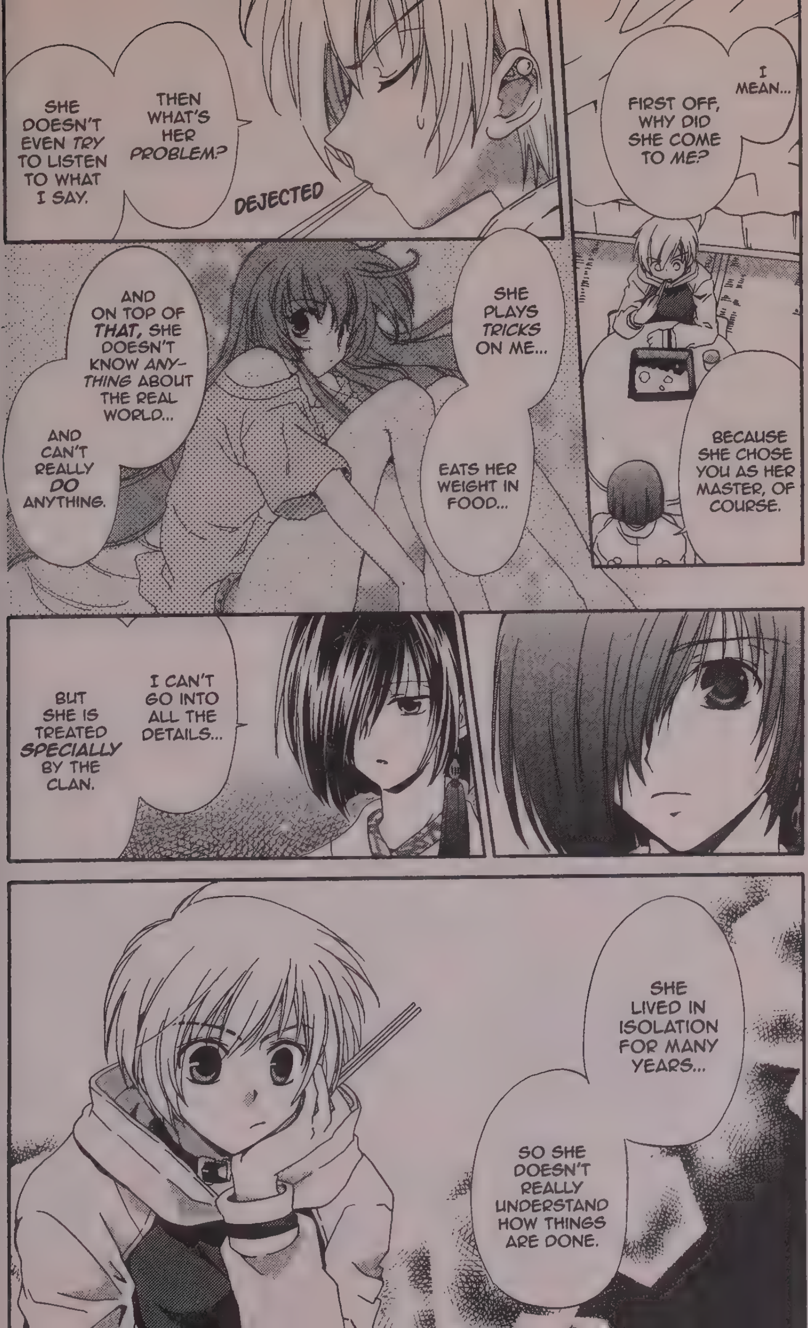

POOF
ACK!
AGAIN?!
ポン
POOF
AND FOR A BONUS...
ドス
WHAM!
OH MY.
ポ
BLUSH
IT'S THE LITTLE BOY FROM NEXT DOOR.
AHH...
STRAIGHT TO BUSINESS TODAY, I SEE. MMM HMM HMM. ♥
DON'T BE SHY. TELL MOMMY WHAT YOU WANT.
AARRGGHHH?!!

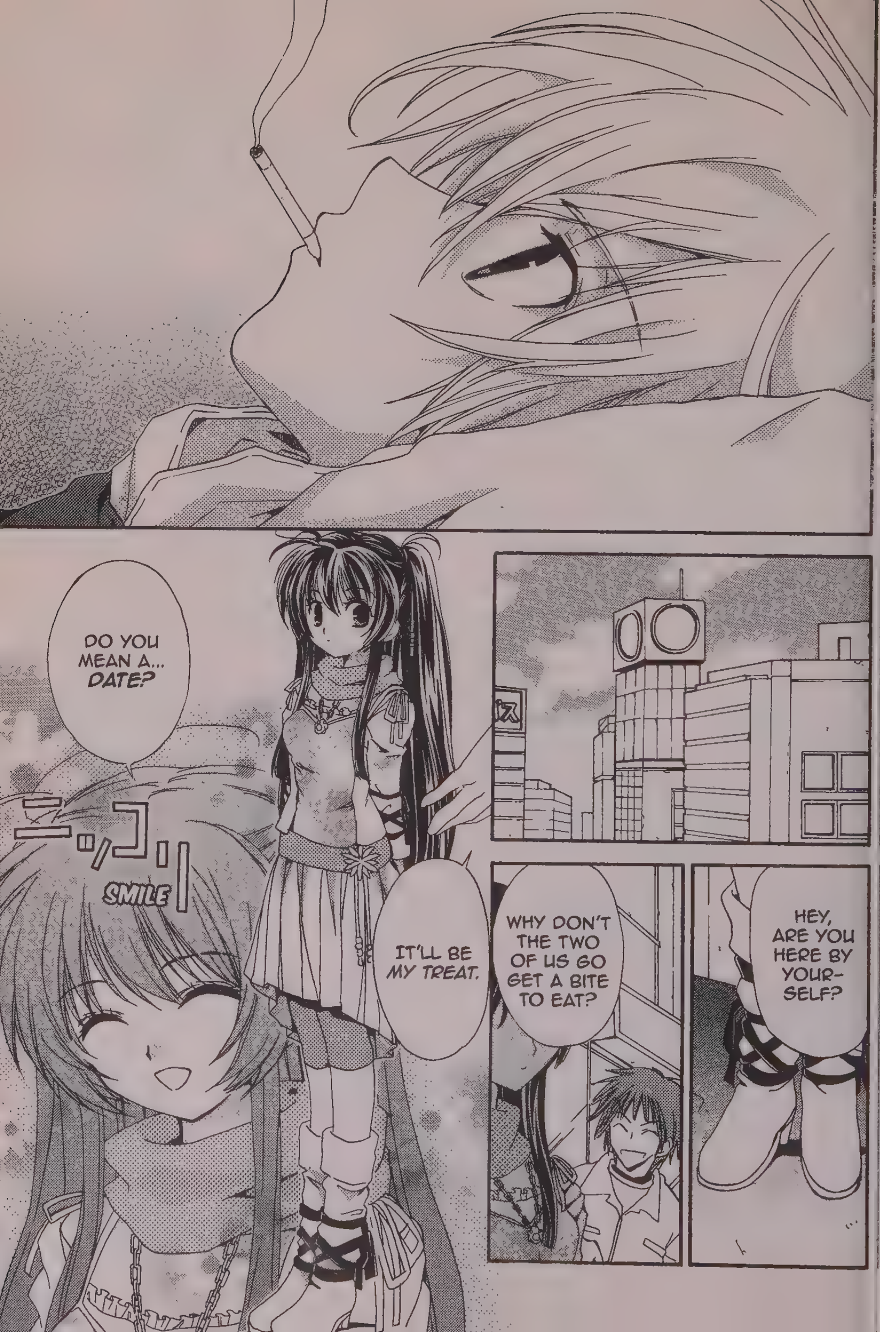

IT'S A WEEKDAY. I'VE GOT SCHOOL.
WE CAN GO ON YOUR DAY OFF...
NO WAY.
I'M NOT GOING ON A DATE.
BESIDES, WHY WOULD I GO ON A DATE WITH YOU?
YOU'RE AN INUKAMI.
HA HA HA HA!
GRRR
IT'D BE LIKE I WAS WALKING THE DOG OR SOMETHING.
UH...
KEITA...
SHUKUCHI!

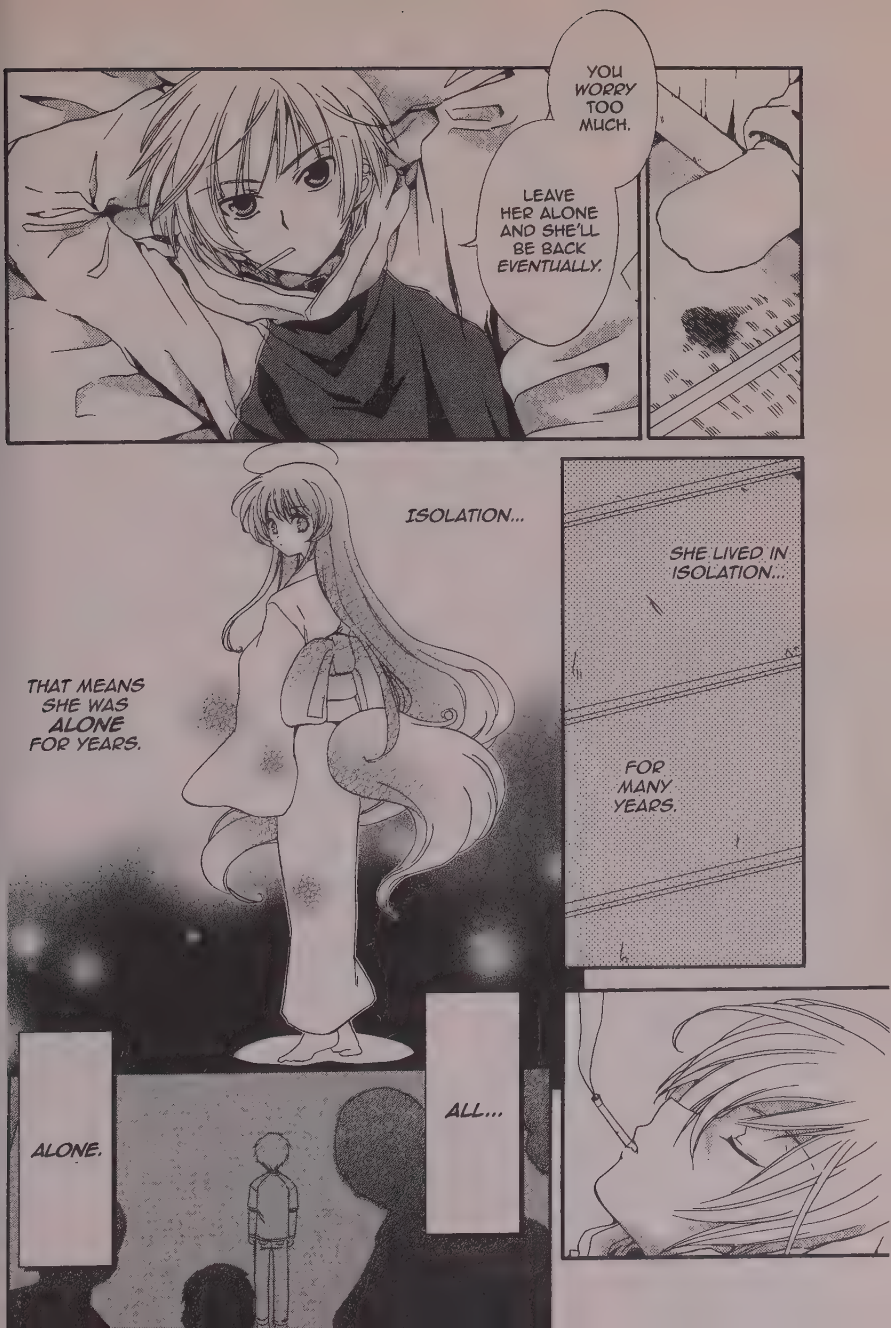

OH, *SHE* LEFT.
SHE WAS ALL MAD FOR SOME REASON.
SHE WENT OUT ALONE?
YEAH.
SO WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR, ANYWAY?
I CAME TO BRING A *GIFT* FROM MY MASTER.
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FOR YOKO, THOUGH.
OOOH!
YOU ALWAYS HAVE THE *BEST* TIMING, HAKE-CHAN.
HAKE-CHAN?
YES! RICE WITH CHESTNUTS!!
MAN...
GRANDMA REALLY HAS IT *GOOD.* SHE SURE HIT THE JACKPOT WITH YOU.
Sigh...
WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO HAVE A GREAT INUKAMI LIKE YOU.
OH.
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU.
WHAT'S UP WITH YOKO, ANYWAY?

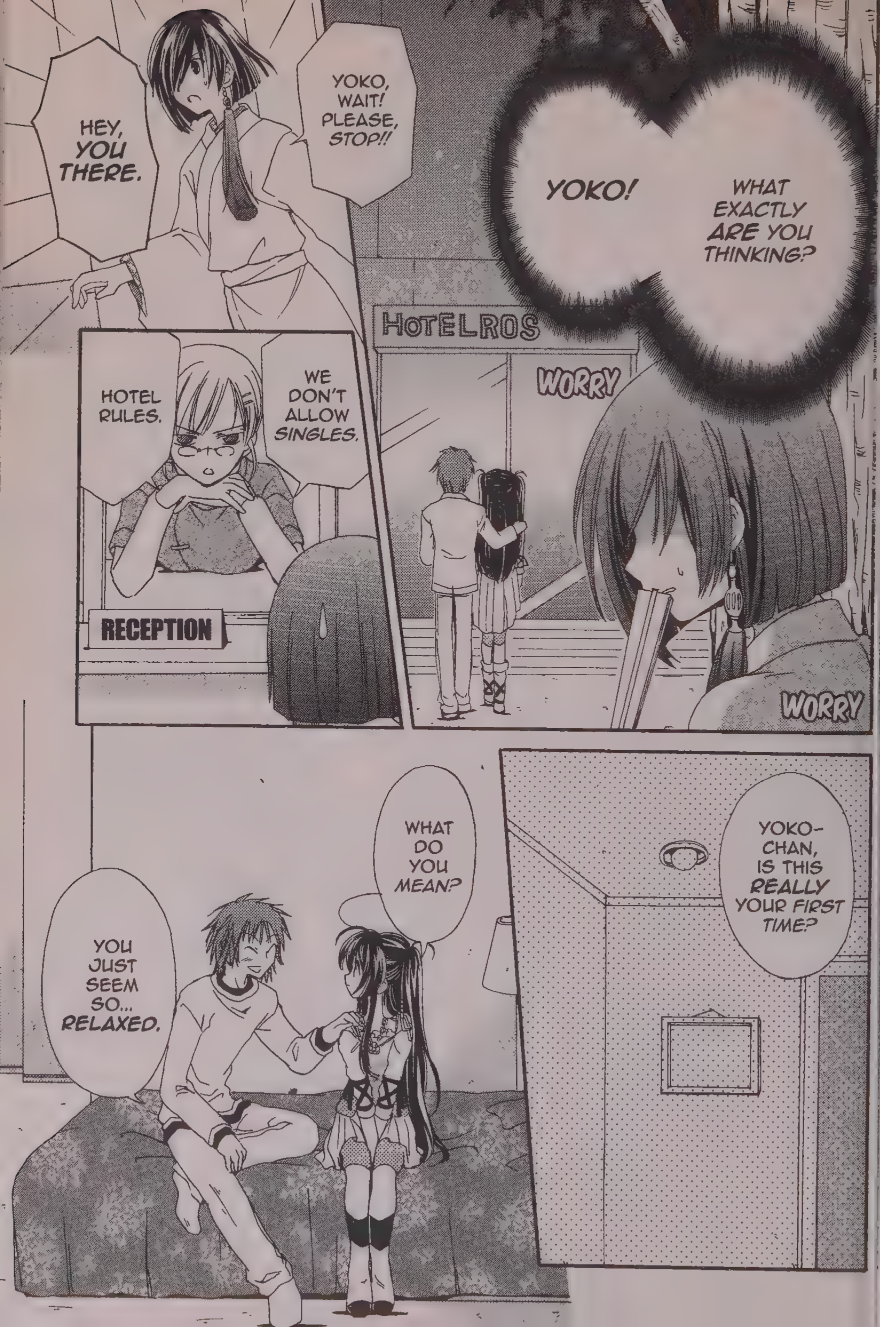

EXHAUSTED
グッタリ…
THAT... WAS A CLOSE ONE.
WHIMPER
TOO CLOSE...
DON'T YOU HAVE SCHOOL TODAY?
DAAAAAHHH!!
JUMP
KEITA-SAMA?
OH... *HAKE.*
I HAD A REALLY ROUGH MORNING, SO I JUST STAYED HOME.
REALLY ROUGH, HUH?
I SEE THAT *YOKO* ISN'T AROUND...

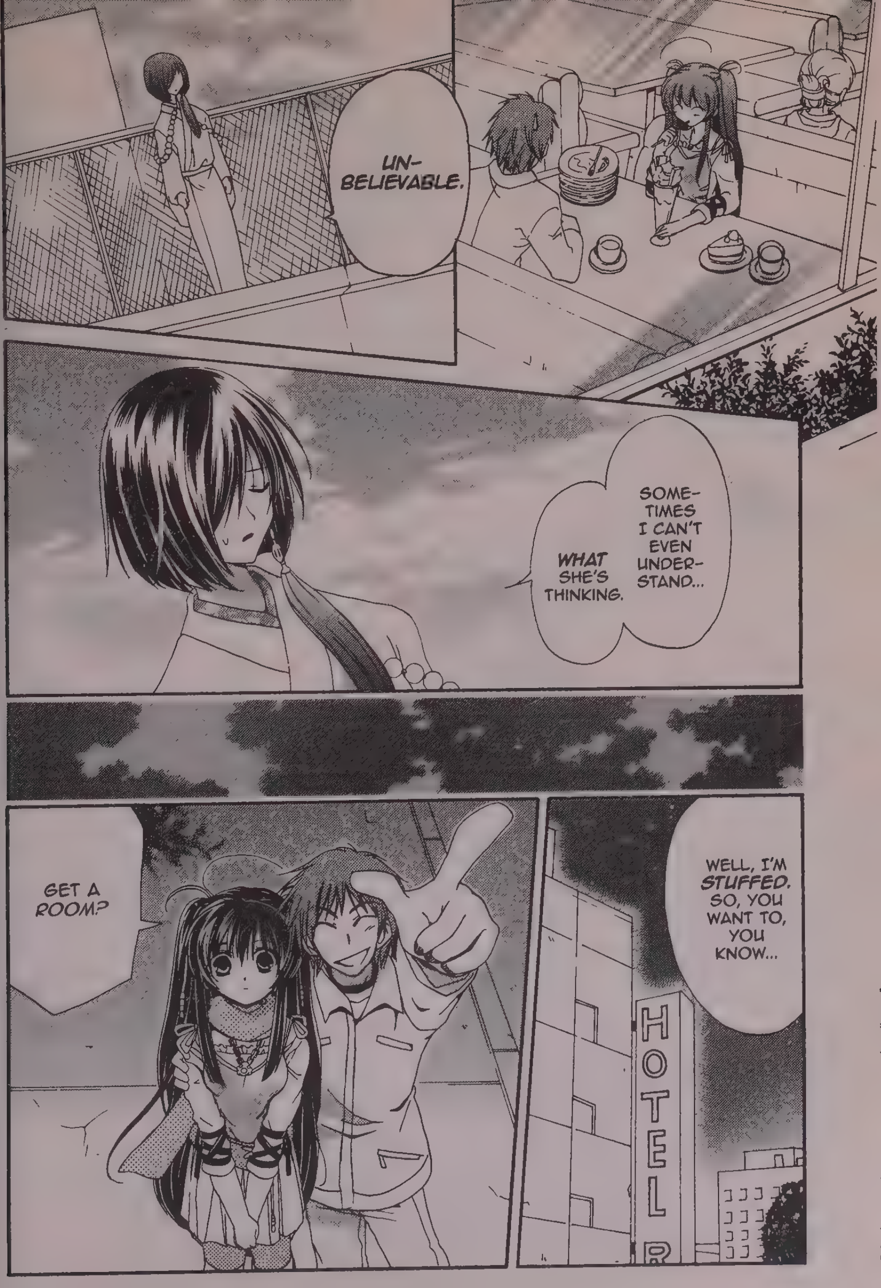

SO I GET THE DAMAGED MERCHANDISE.
TO PUT IT BLUNTLY...
I AM TRULY SORRY FOR ANY TROUBLES YOU'VE HAD...
BUT FROM MY PERSPECTIVE...
I HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF YOU, KEITA-SAMA.
SOMEHOW, YOU MUST TEACH HER...
THE WAYS OF HUMAN SOCIETY.
PLEASE, I HUMBLY ASK YOU TO MAKE HER INTO A FIRST-RATE INUKAMI.
YOU THINK I'M NOT TRYING TO TRAIN THAT DUMB MUTT?
IT'D BE MUCH EASIER IF SHE HAD STARTED OUT WELL-BRED, THOUGH.
SIGH...
STAND...
HUH? WHAT IS IT?
PROBABLY NOTHING.
BUT HASN'T YOKO BEEN GONE KIND OF A LONG TIME?
I THINK I'LL GO HAVE A LOOK FOR HER.
VANISH

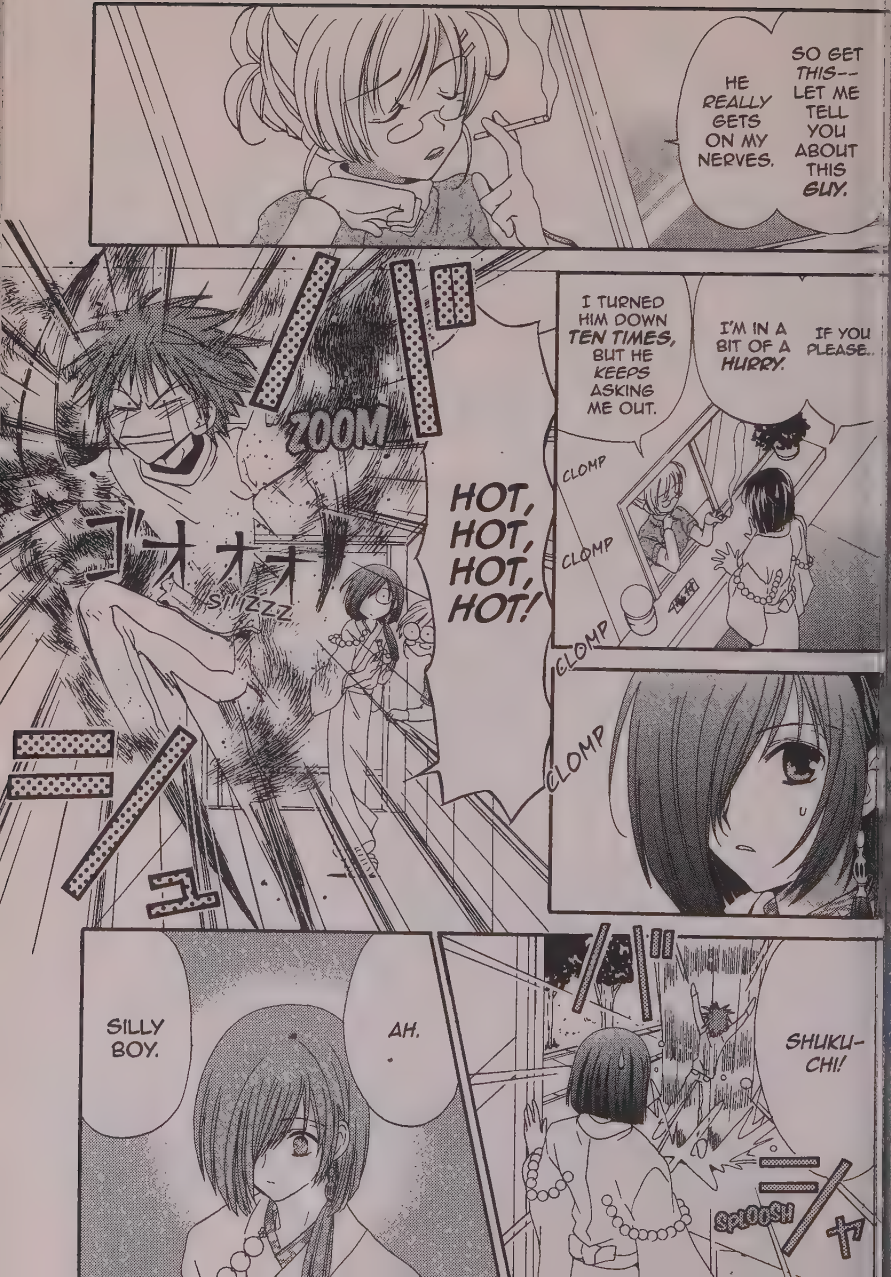

I MEAN...
FIRST OFF, WHY DID SHE COME TO ME?
THEN WHAT'S HER *PROBLEM?*
SHE DOESN'T EVEN *TRY* TO LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY.
DEJECTED
BECAUSE SHE CHOSE YOU AS HER MASTER, OF COURSE.
SHE PLAYS *TRICKS* ON ME...
EATS HER WEIGHT IN FOOD...
AND ON TOP OF *THAT,* SHE DOESN'T KNOW *ANYTHING* ABOUT THE REAL WORLD...
AND CAN'T REALLY *DO* ANYTHING.
I CAN'T GO INTO ALL THE DETAILS...
BUT SHE IS TREATED *SPECIALLY* BY THE CLAN.
SHE LIVED IN ISOLATION FOR MANY YEARS...
SO SHE DOESN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND HOW THINGS ARE DONE.

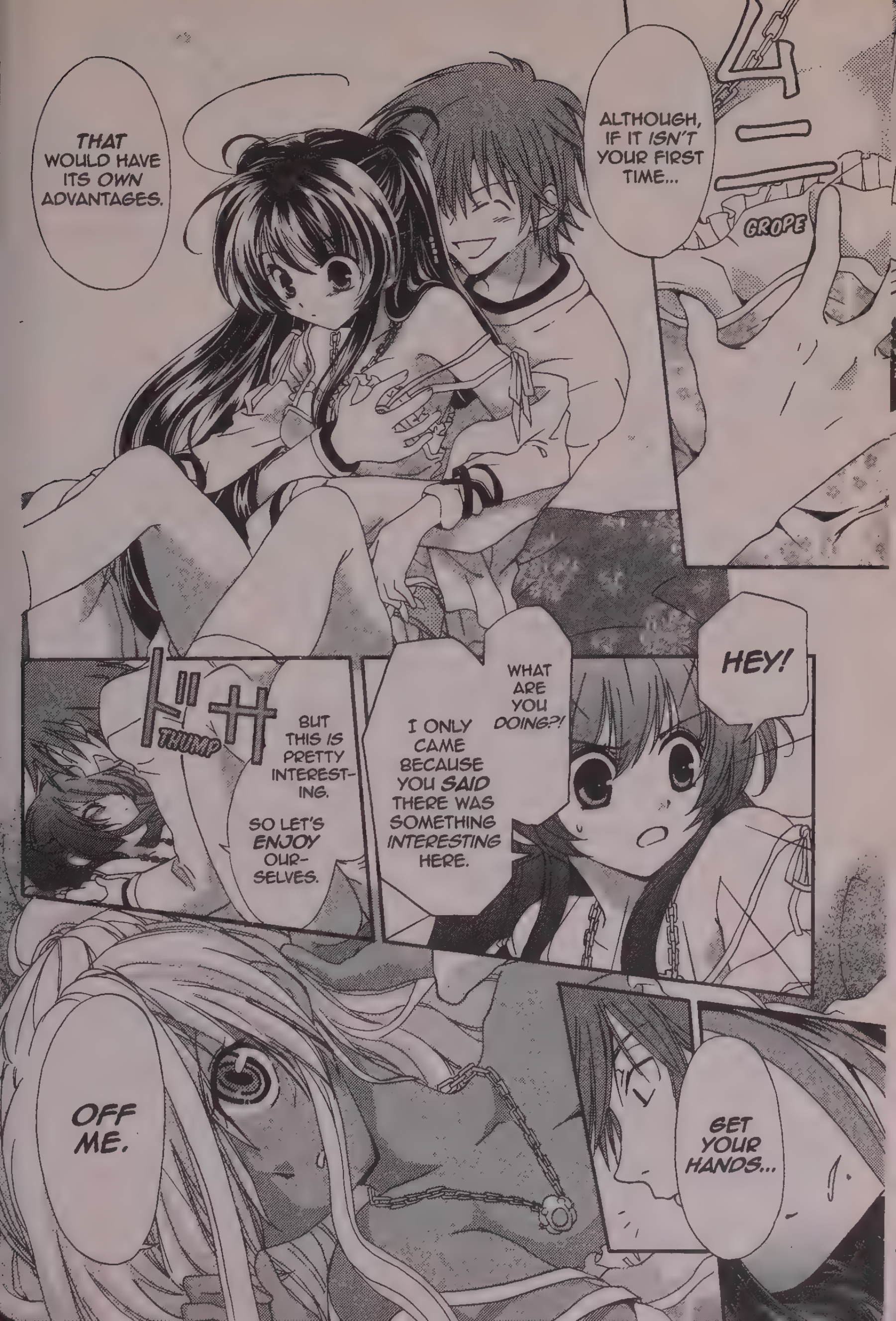

HEY, ARE YOU HERE BY YOURSELF?
...
WHY DON'T THE TWO OF US GO GET A BITE TO EAT?
IT'LL BE *MY TREAT.*
DO YOU MEAN A... *DATE?*
ニッコリ
SMILE

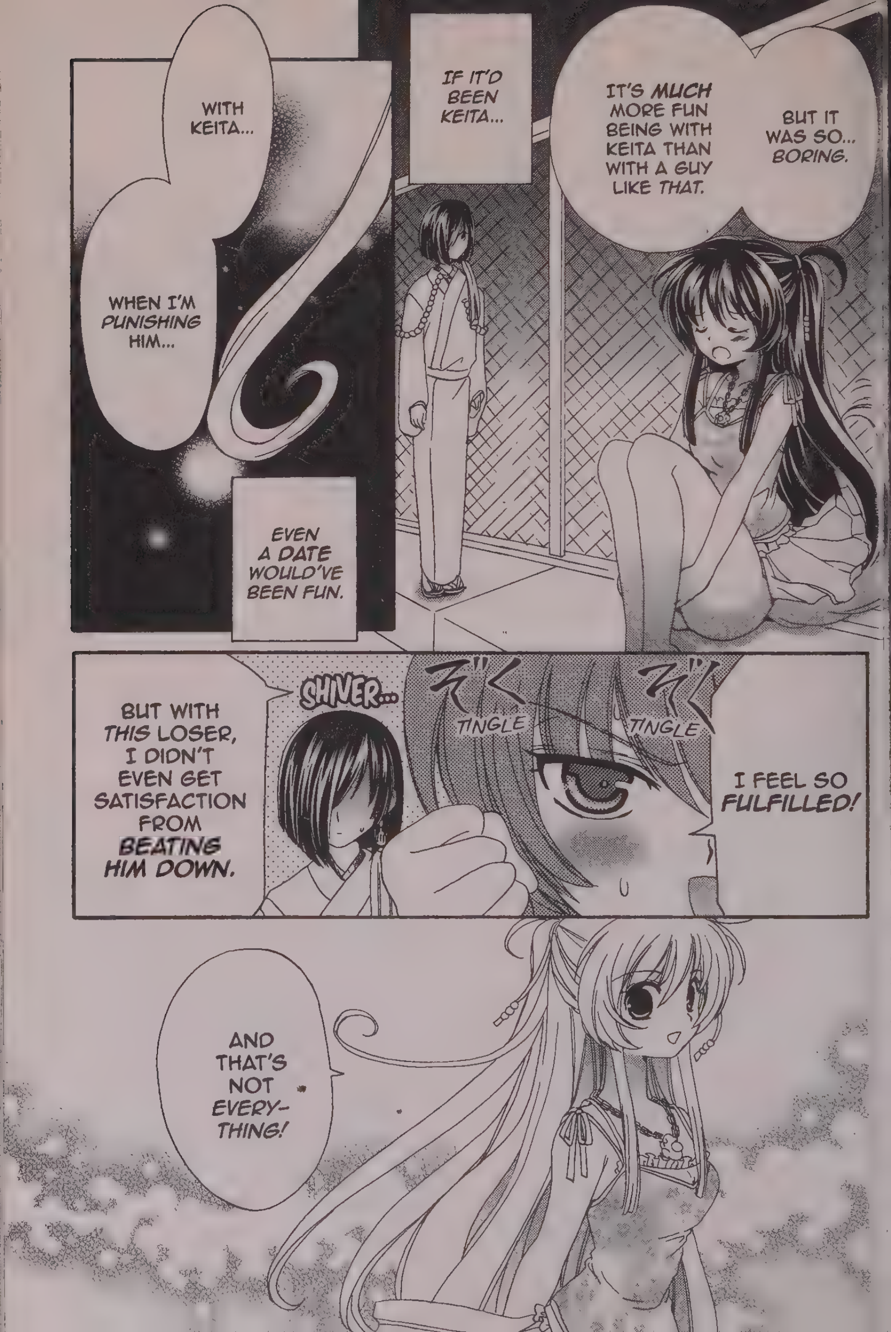

YOU WORRY TOO MUCH.
LEAVE HER ALONE AND SHE'LL BE BACK EVENTUALLY.
SHE LIVED IN ISOLATION...
FOR MANY YEARS.
ISOLATION...
THAT MEANS SHE WAS **ALONE** FOR YEARS.
ALL...
ALONE.

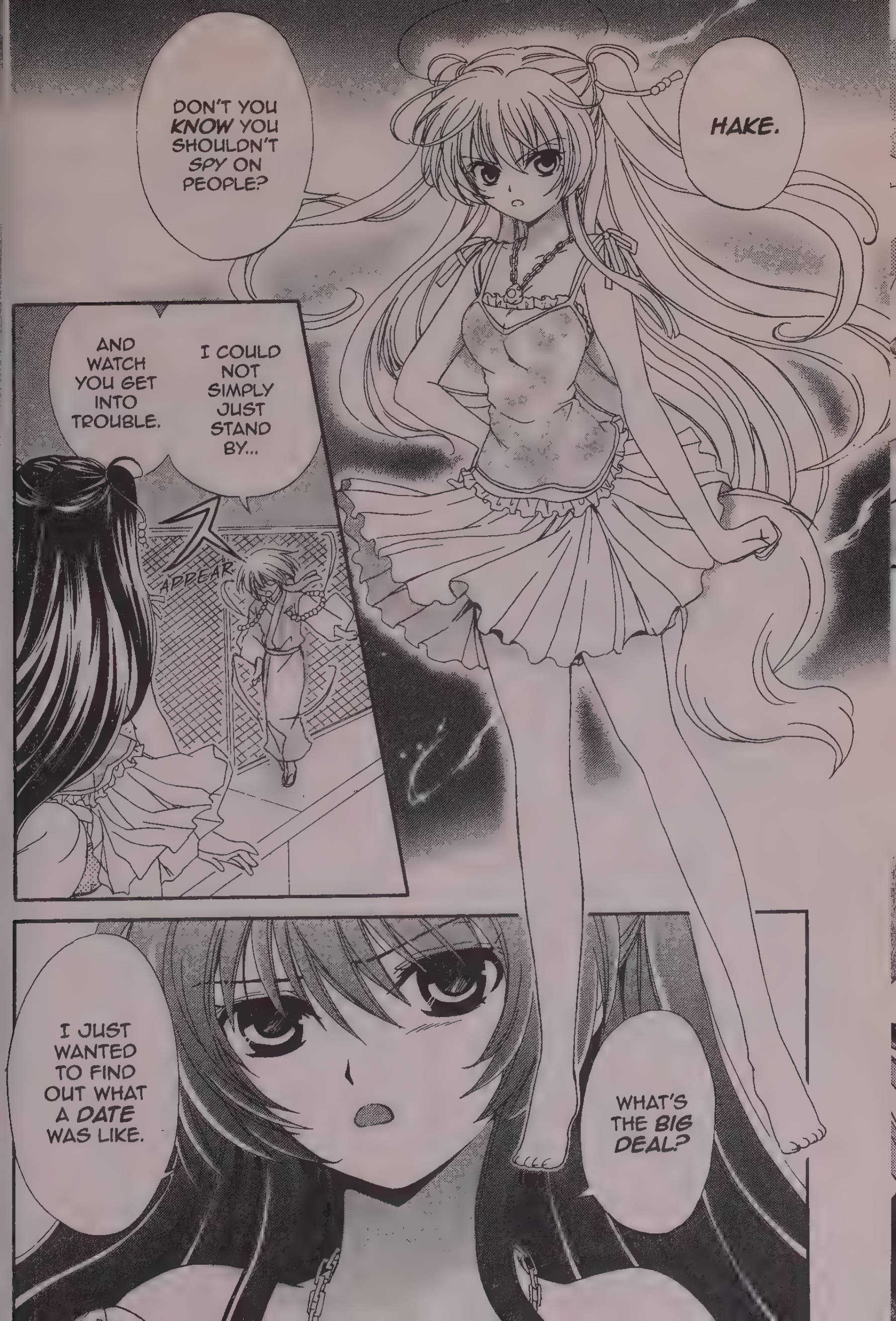

YOKO! WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU THINKING?
WORRY
WORRY
HOTELROS
YOKO, WAIT! PLEASE, STOP!!
HEY, YOU THERE.
WE DON'T ALLOW SINGLES.
HOTEL RULES.
RECEPTION
YOKO-CHAN, IS THIS REALLY YOUR FIRST TIME?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU JUST SEEM SO... RELAXED.

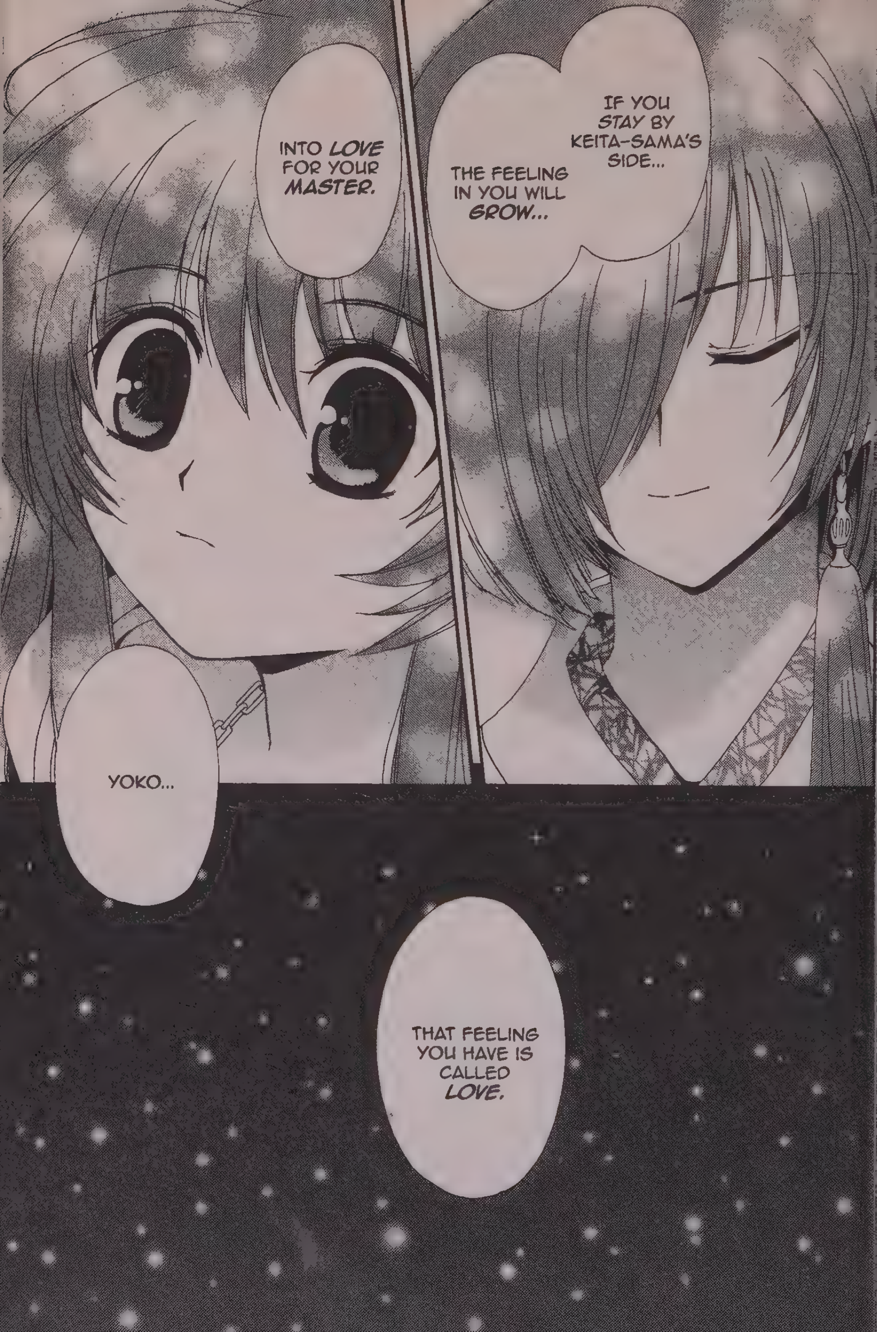

UN-BELIEVABLE.
SOMETIMES I CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND...
WHAT SHE'S THINKING.
WELL, I'M STUFFED. SO, YOU WANT TO, YOU KNOW...
HOTEL R
GET A ROOM?

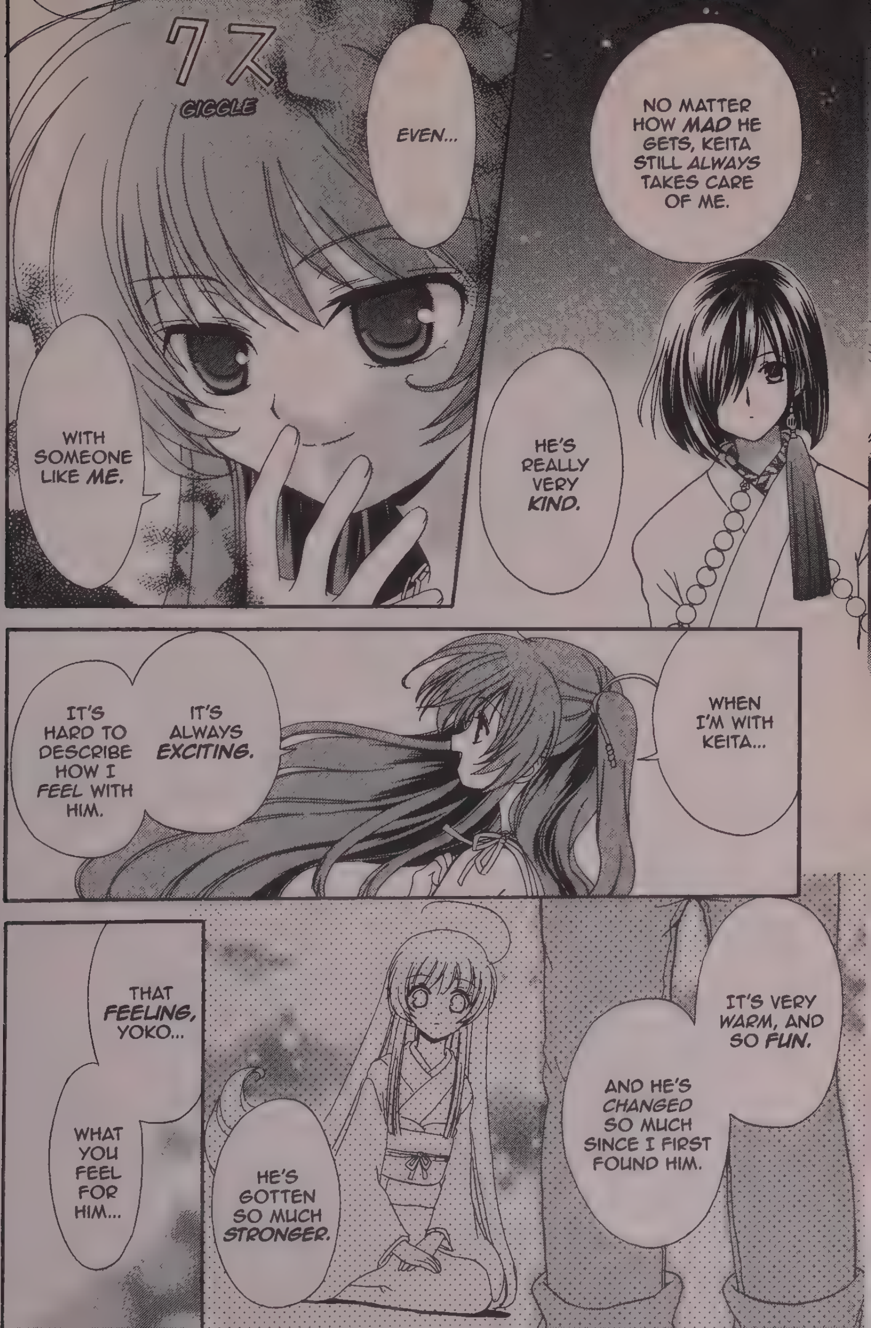

SO GET THIS-- LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THIS *GUY.*
HE *REALLY* GETS ON MY NERVES.
IF YOU PLEASE..
I'M IN A BIT OF A *HURRY.*
I TURNED HIM DOWN *TEN TIMES,* BUT HE *KEEPS* ASKING ME OUT.
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
HOT, HOT, HOT, HOT!
ZOOM
ゴオオオ
SIIIZZZ
SHUKU-CHI!
SPLOOSH
AH.
SILLY BOY.

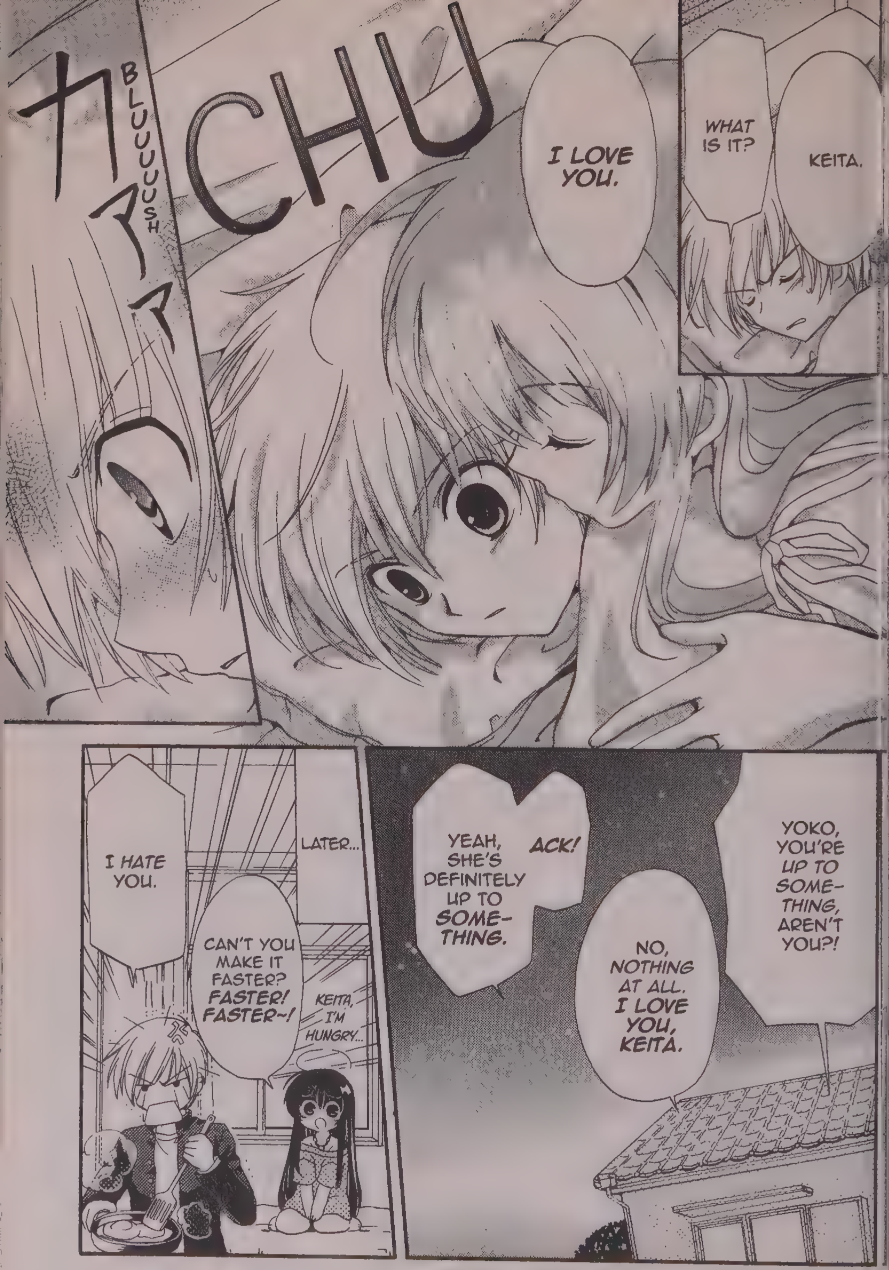

ALTHOUGH, IF IT *ISN'T* YOUR FIRST TIME...
GROPE
THAT WOULD HAVE ITS *OWN* ADVANTAGES.
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?!*
I ONLY CAME BECAUSE YOU *SAID* THERE WAS SOMETHING *INTERESTING* HERE.
BUT THIS *IS* PRETTY INTERESTING.
SO LET'S *ENJOY* OURSELVES.
ドサ
THUMP
GET YOUR HANDS...
OFF ME.

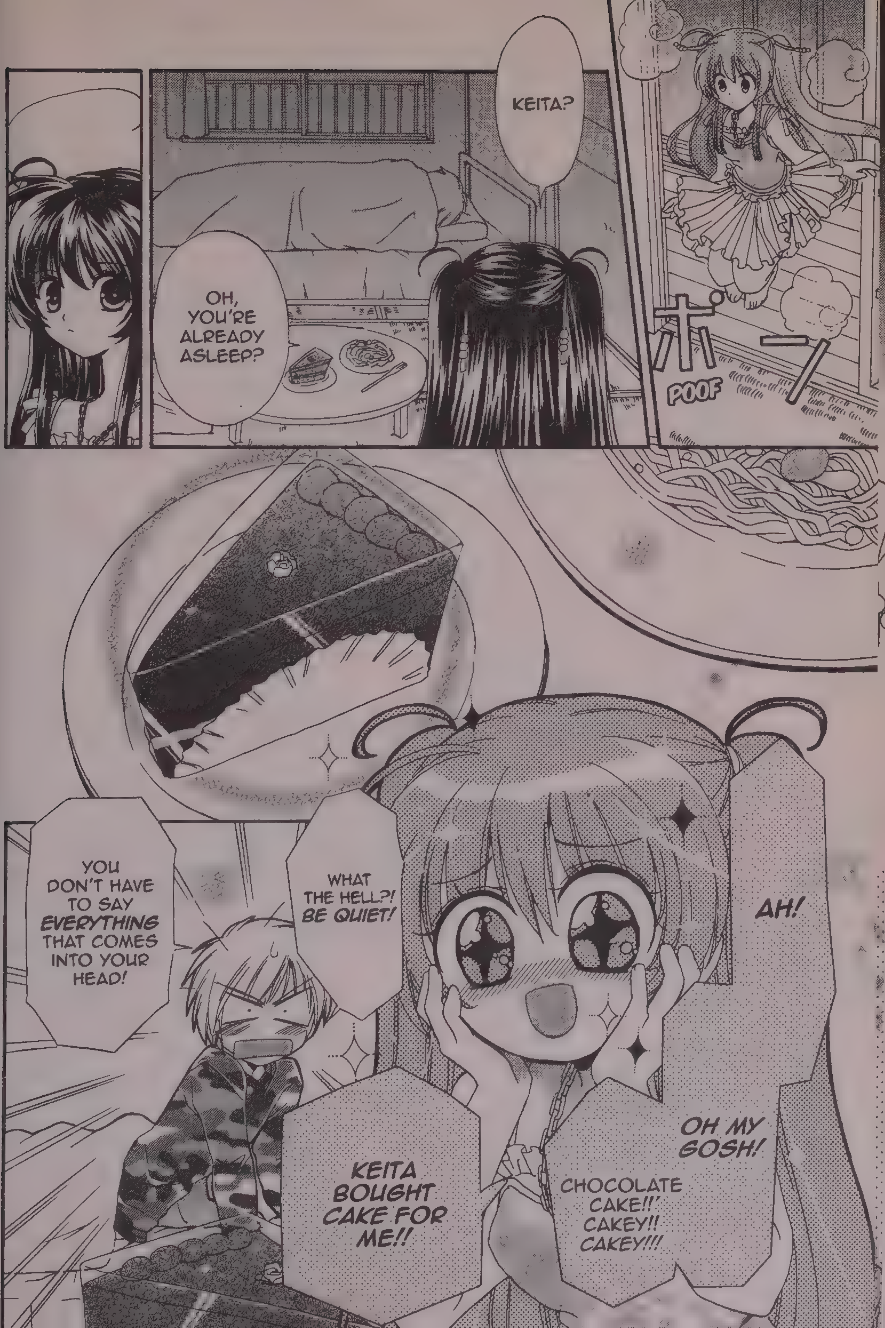

BUT IT WAS SO... BORING.
IT'S MUCH MORE FUN BEING WITH KEITA THAN WITH A GUY LIKE THAT.
IF IT'D BEEN KEITA...
EVEN A DATE WOULD'VE BEEN FUN.
WITH KEITA...
WHEN I'M PUNISHING HIM...
I FEEL SO FULFILLED!
ぞく TINGLE
ぞく TINGLE
SHIVER...
BUT WITH THIS LOSER, I DIDN'T EVEN GET SATISFACTION FROM BEATING HIM DOWN.
AND THAT'S NOT EVERYTHING!


HAKE.
DON'T YOU *KNOW* YOU SHOULDN'T *SPY* ON PEOPLE?
I COULD NOT SIMPLY JUST STAND BY...
AND WATCH YOU GET INTO TROUBLE.
ス
APPEAR
WHAT'S THE *BIG DEAL?*
I JUST WANTED TO FIND OUT WHAT A *DATE* WAS LIKE.

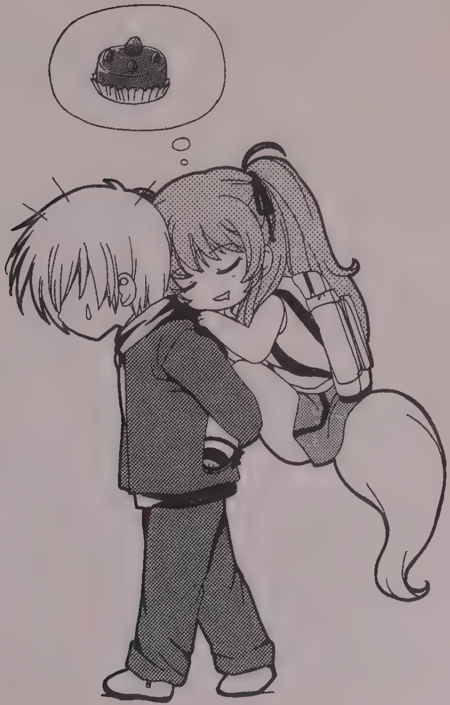

IF YOU *STAY* BY KEITA-SAMA'S SIDE...
THE FEELING IN YOU WILL *GROW*...
INTO *LOVE* FOR YOUR *MASTER*.
YOKO...
THAT FEELING YOU HAVE IS CALLED *LOVE*.

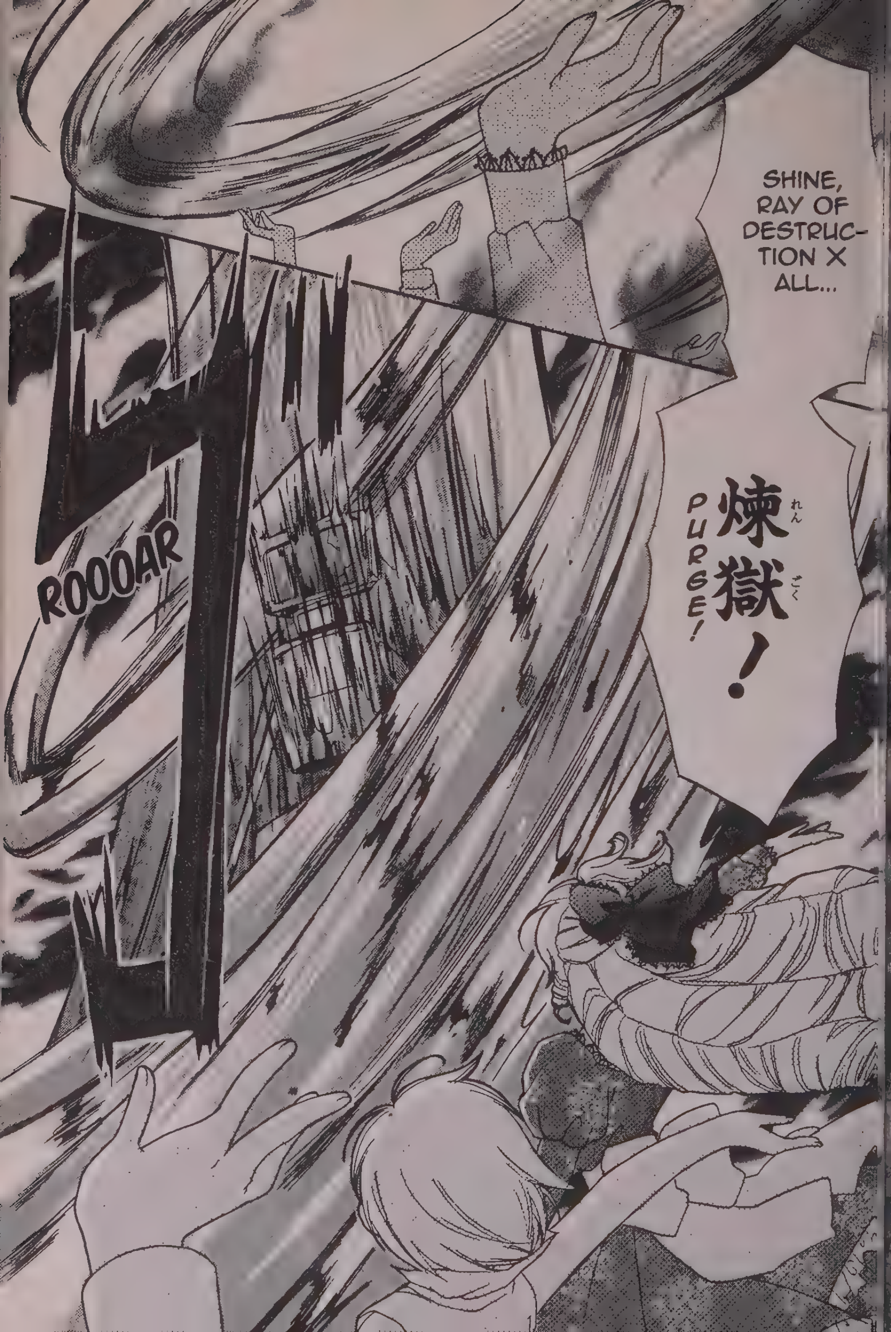

NO MATTER HOW *MAD* HE GETS, KEITA STILL *ALWAYS* TAKES CARE OF ME.
HE'S REALLY VERY *KIND.*
クス
GIGGLE
EVEN...
WITH SOMEONE LIKE *ME.*
WHEN I'M WITH KEITA...
IT'S ALWAYS *EXCITING.*
IT'S HARD TO DESCRIBE HOW I *FEEL* WITH HIM.
IT'S VERY *WARM,* AND SO *FUN.*
AND HE'S *CHANGED* SO MUCH SINCE I FIRST FOUND HIM.
HE'S GOTTEN SO MUCH *STRONGER.*
THAT *FEELING,* YOKO...
WHAT YOU FEEL FOR HIM...

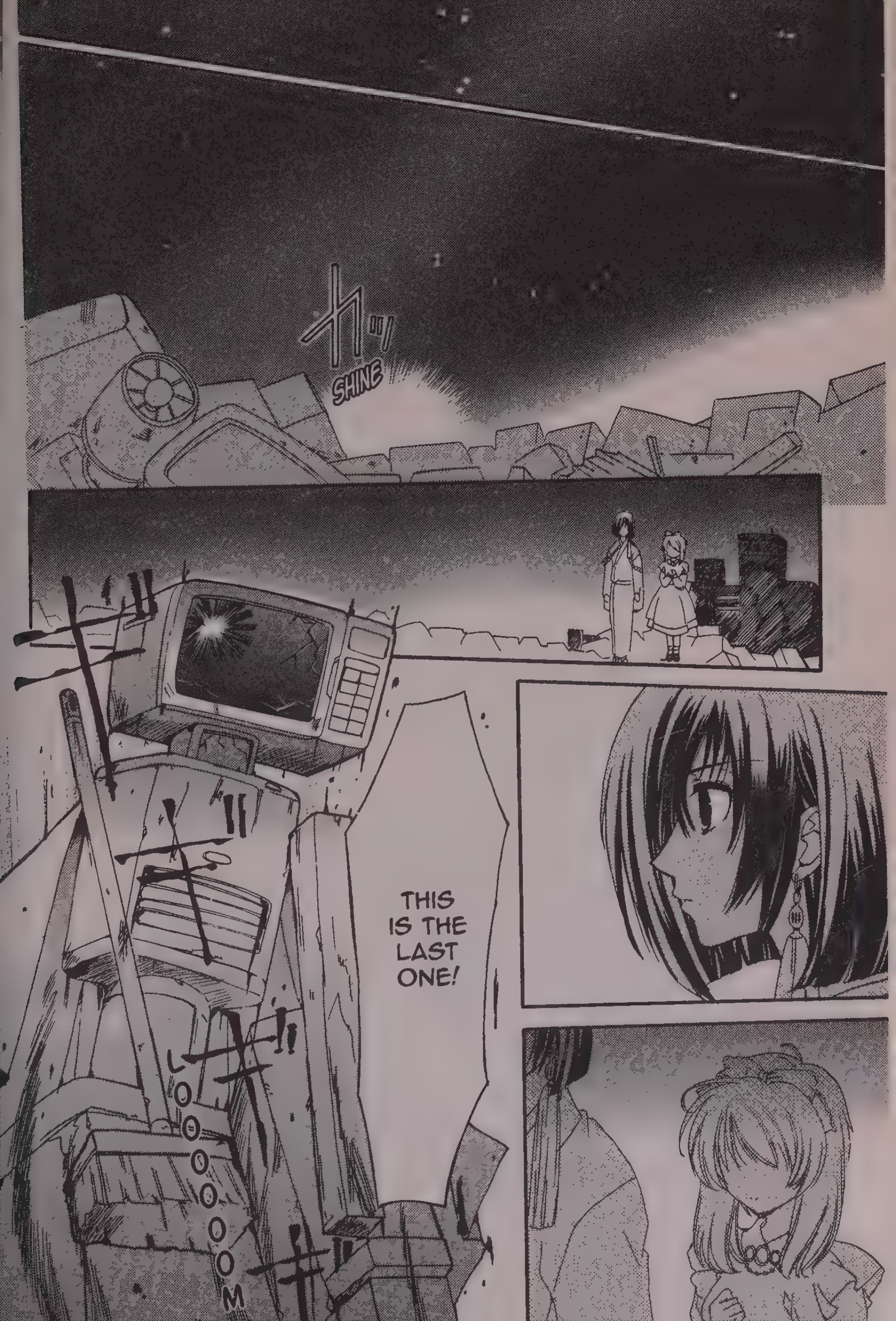

KEITA.
WHAT IS IT?
I LOVE YOU.
CHU
カァァ
BLUUUUUSH
YOKO, YOU'RE UP TO SOME-THING, AREN'T YOU?!
NO, NOTHING AT ALL. I LOVE YOU, KEITA.
ACK!
YEAH, SHE'S DEFINITELY UP TO SOME-THING.
LATER...
KEITA, I'M HUNGRY...
CAN'T YOU MAKE IT FASTER? FASTER! FASTER~!
I HATE YOU.

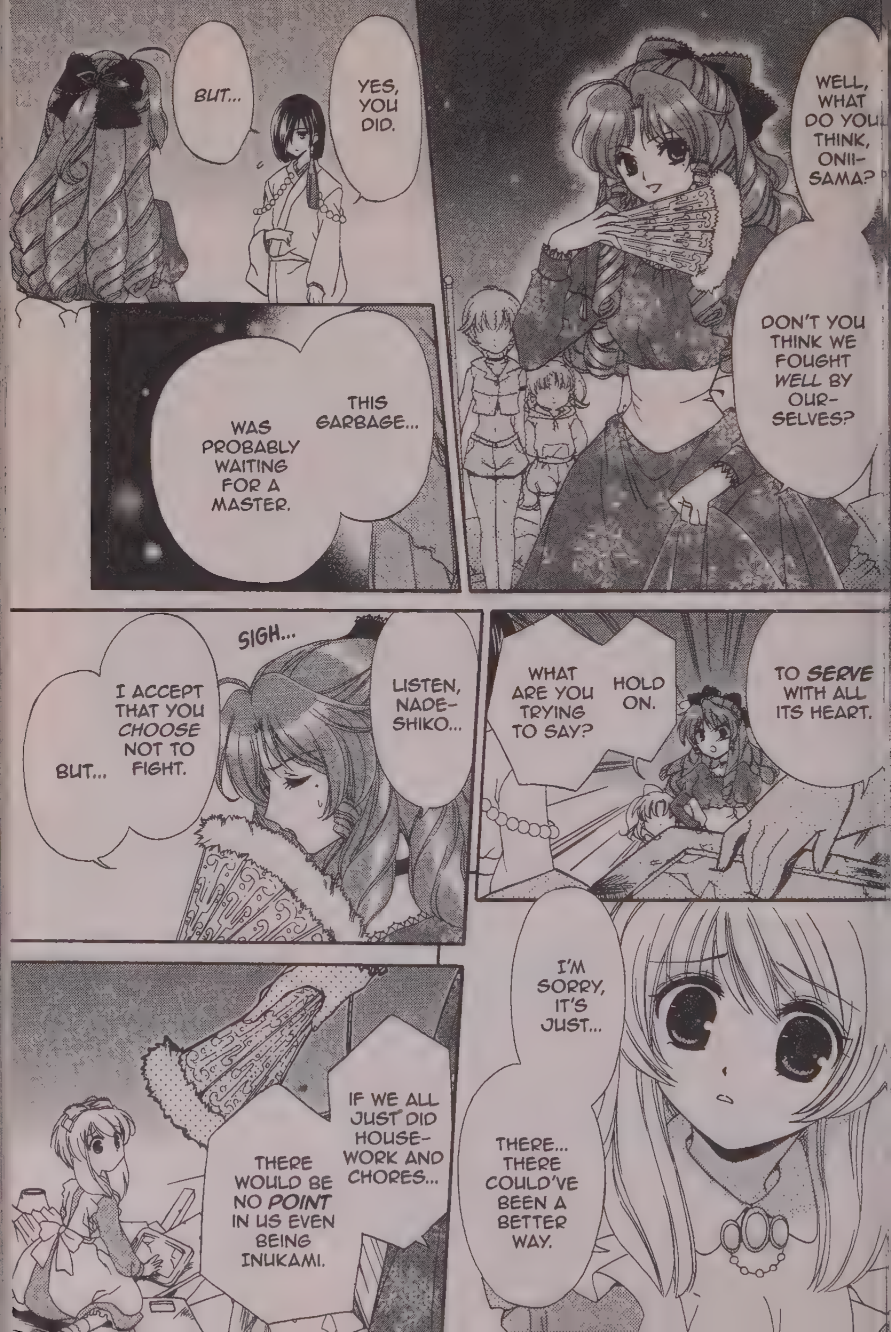

ポーン
POOF
KEITA?
OH, YOU'RE ALREADY ASLEEP?
AH!
OH MY GOSH!
CHOCOLATE CAKE!! CAKEY!! CAKEY!!!
KEITA BOUGHT CAKE FOR ME!!
WHAT THE HELL?! *BE QUIET!*
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY *EVERYTHING* THAT COMES INTO YOUR HEAD!

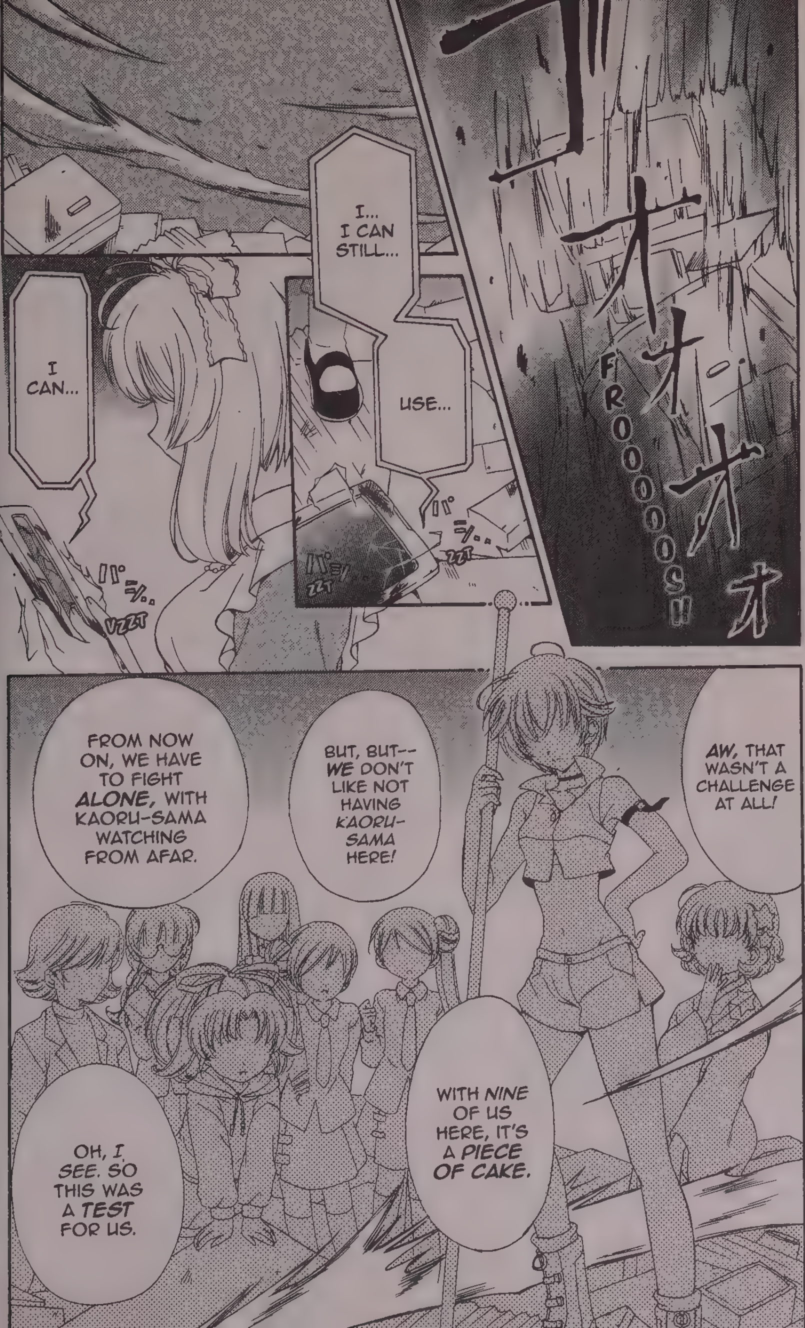
Step.5 Enter Nadeshiko

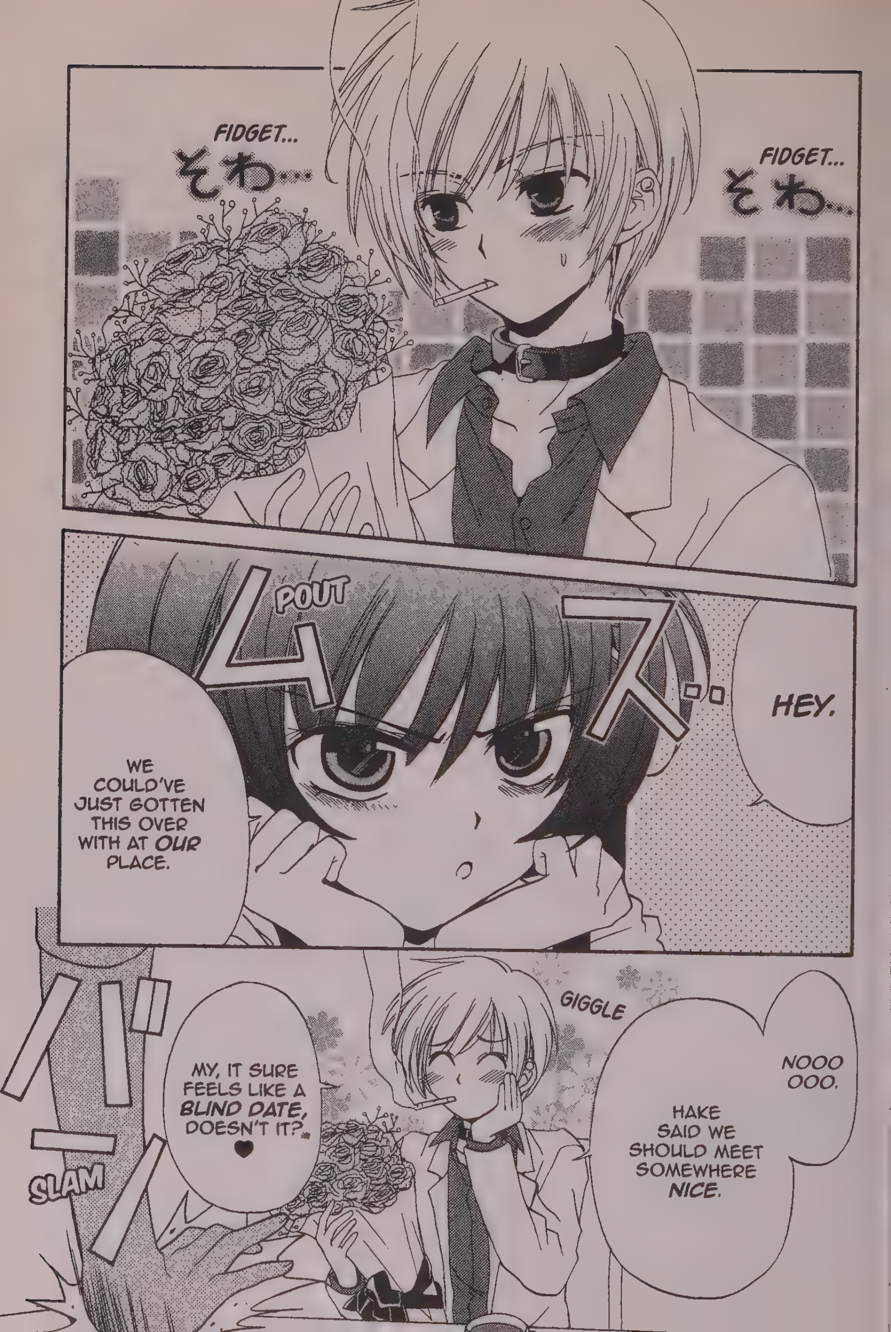


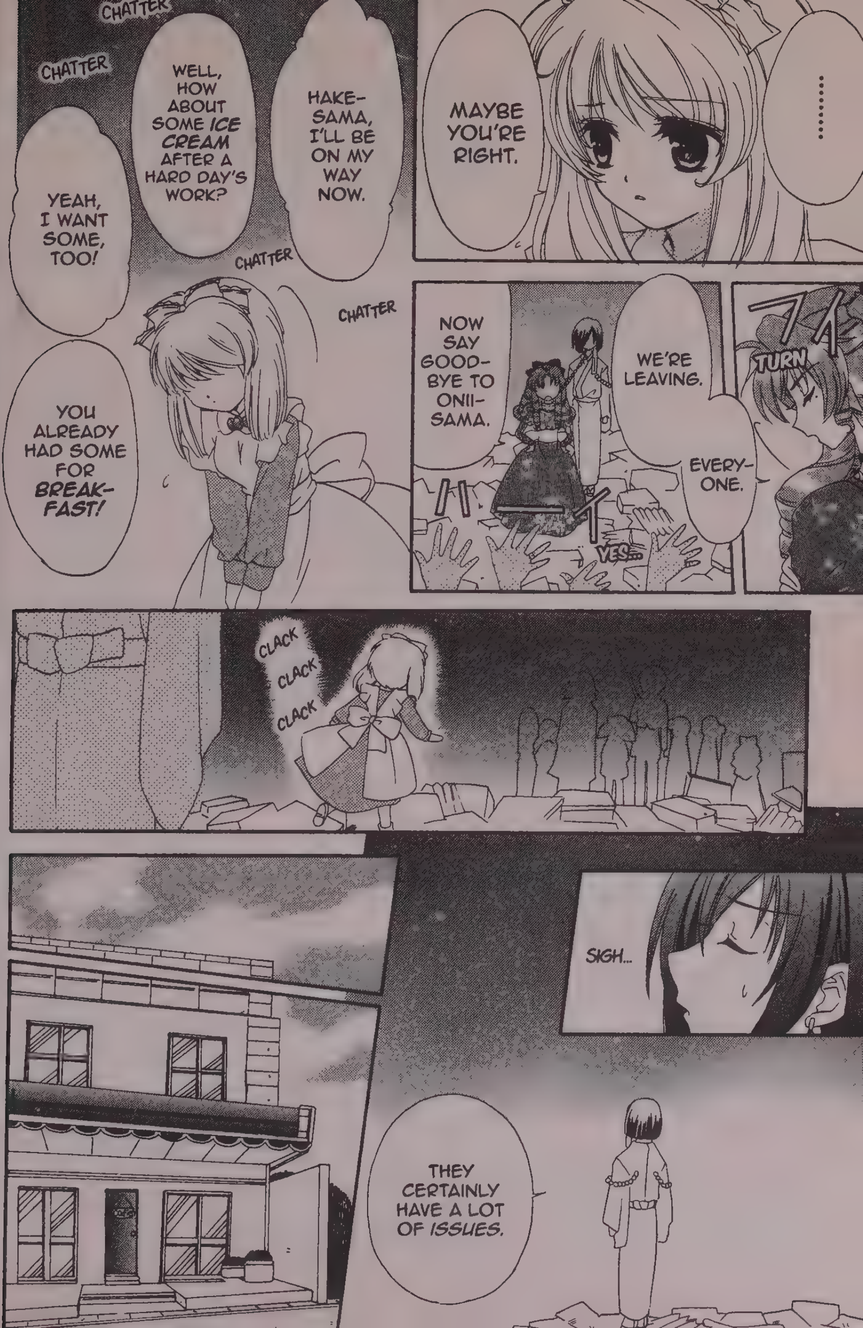

SHINE, RAY OF DESTRUCTION X ALL...
煉獄（れんごく）！
PURGE!
ROOOAR

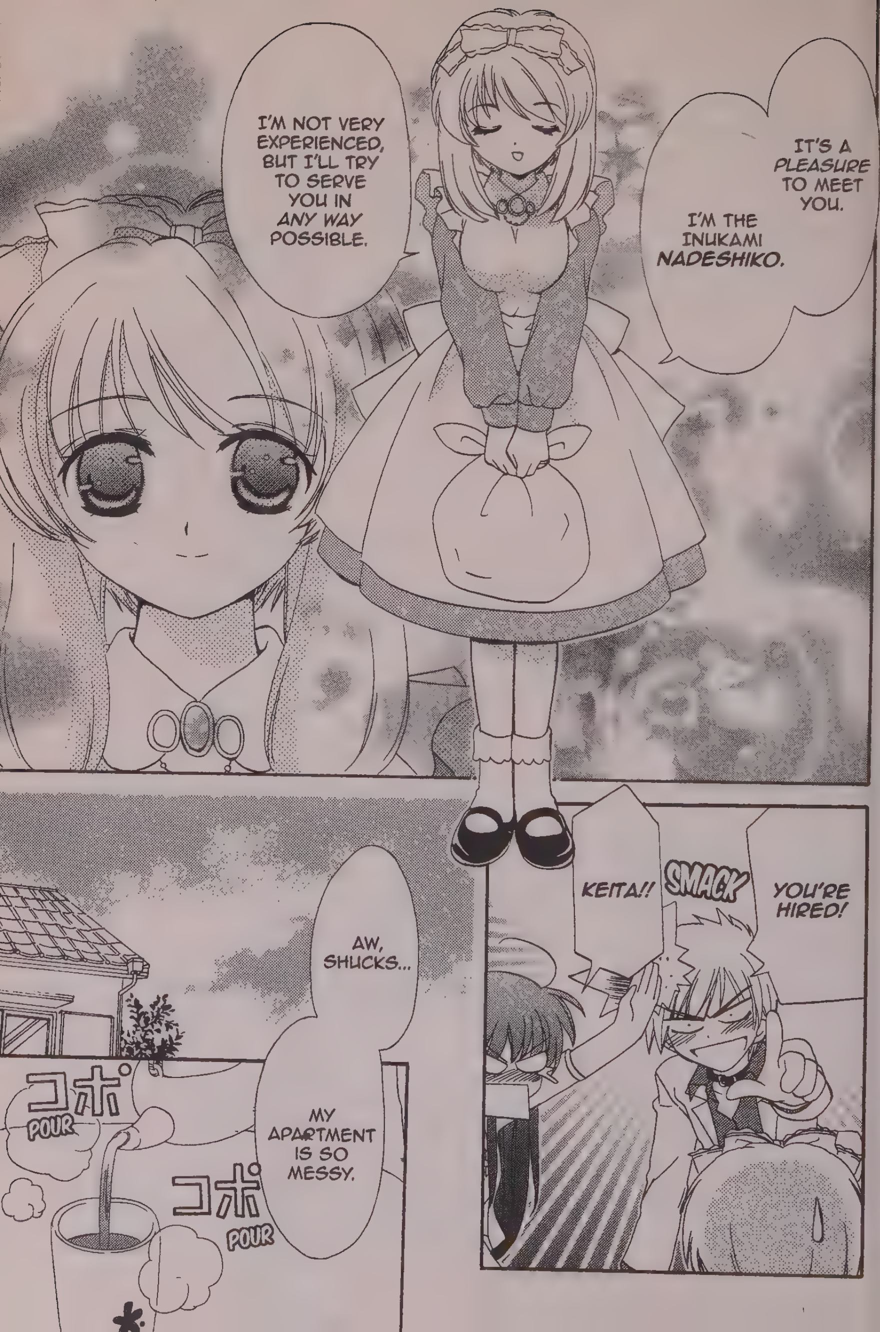

カッ
SHINE
THIS IS THE LAST ONE!
LOOOOOOOM

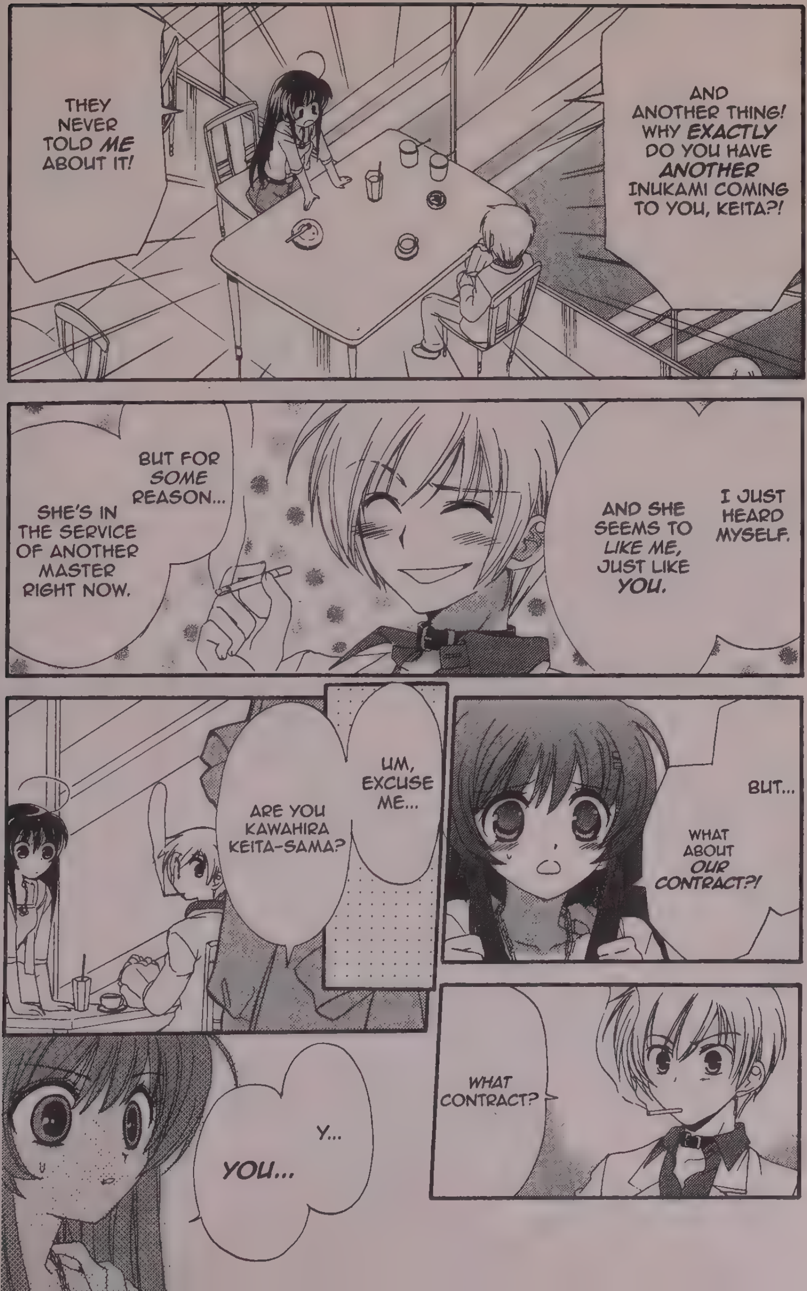

WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK, ONII-SAMA?
DON'T YOU THINK WE FOUGHT *WELL* BY OURSELVES?
YES, YOU DID.
BUT...
THIS GARBAGE...
WAS PROBABLY WAITING FOR A MASTER.
TO *SERVE* WITH ALL ITS HEART.
HOLD ON.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
LISTEN, NADESHIKO...
SIGH...
I ACCEPT THAT YOU *CHOOSE* NOT TO FIGHT.
BUT...
I'M SORRY, IT'S JUST...
THERE... THERE COULD'VE BEEN A BETTER WAY.
IF WE ALL JUST DID HOUSEWORK AND CHORES...
THERE WOULD BE NO *POINT* IN US EVEN BEING INUKAMI.

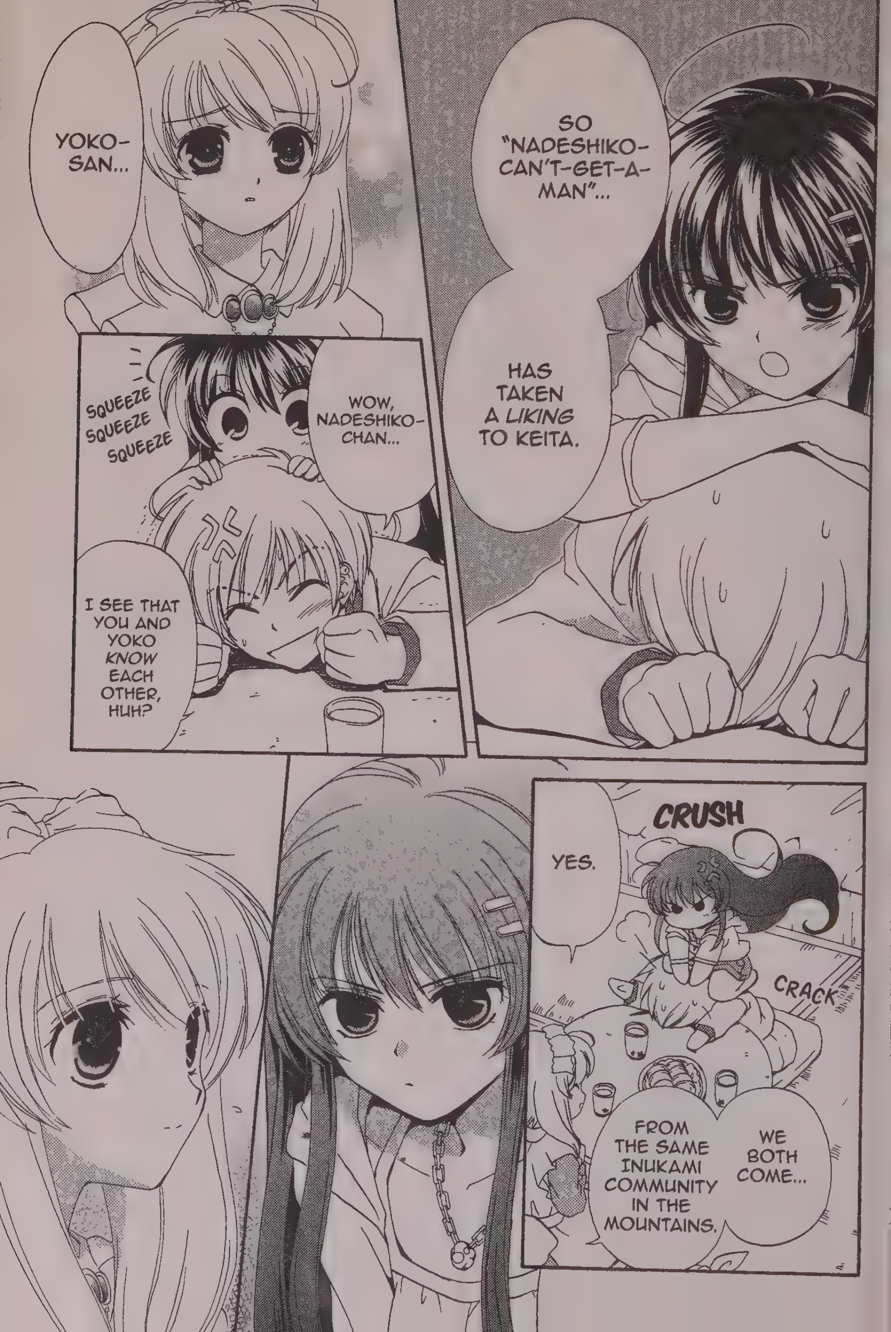

ゴオオーオオ
FROOOOOOSH!!
I... I CAN STILL...
USE...
ZZT
ZZT
I CAN...
VZZT
AW, THAT WASN'T A CHALLENGE AT ALL!
WITH NINE OF US HERE, IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE.
BUT, BUT-- WE DON'T LIKE NOT HAVING KAORU-SAMA HERE!
FROM NOW ON, WE HAVE TO FIGHT ALONE, WITH KAORU-SAMA WATCHING FROM AFAR.
OH, I SEE. SO THIS WAS A TEST FOR US.

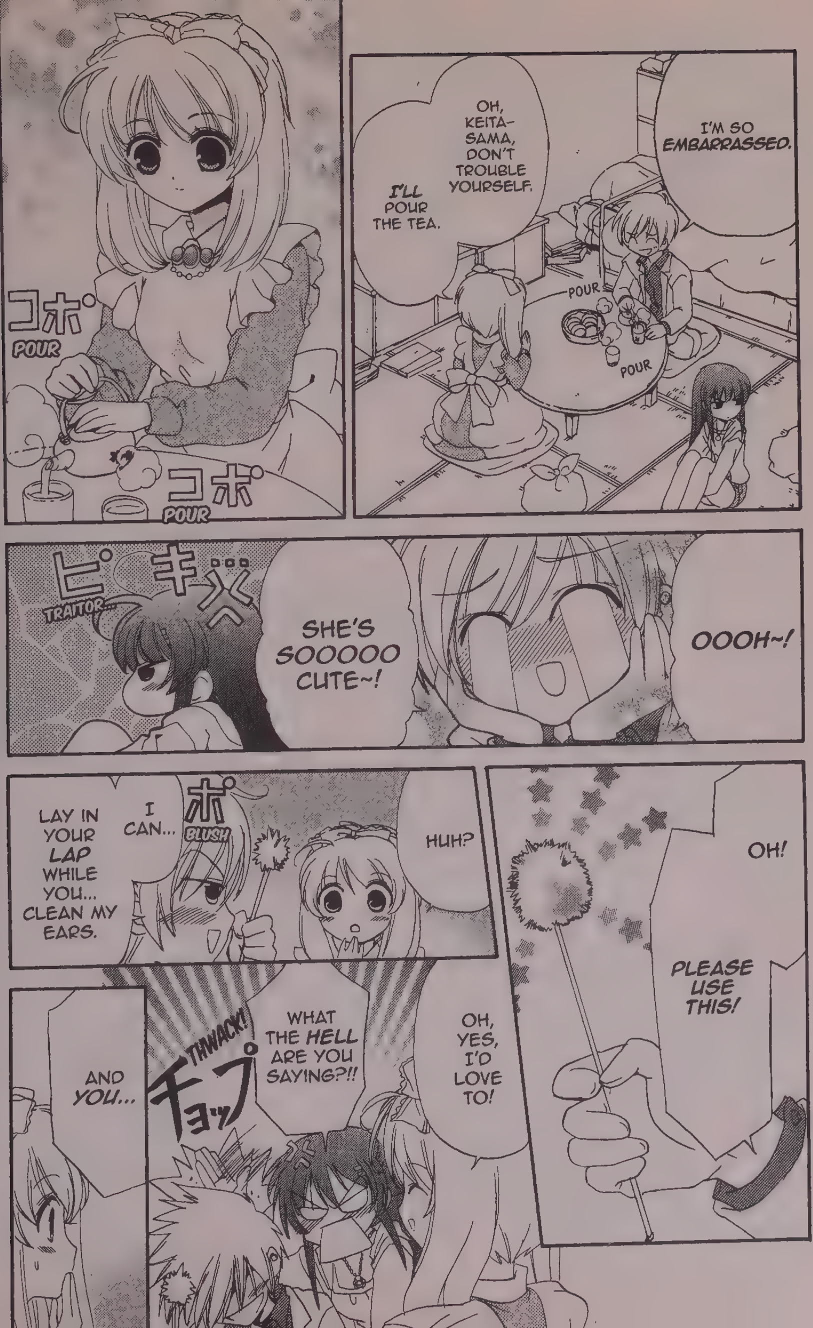

FIDGET...
そわ...
FIDGET...
そわ...
POUT
ムス..
HEY.
WE COULD'VE JUST GOTTEN THIS OVER WITH AT OUR PLACE.
NOOO OOO.
HAKE SAID WE SHOULD MEET SOMEWHERE NICE.
GIGGLE
MY, IT SURE FEELS LIKE A BLIND DATE, DOESN'T IT? ♥
バン
SLAM

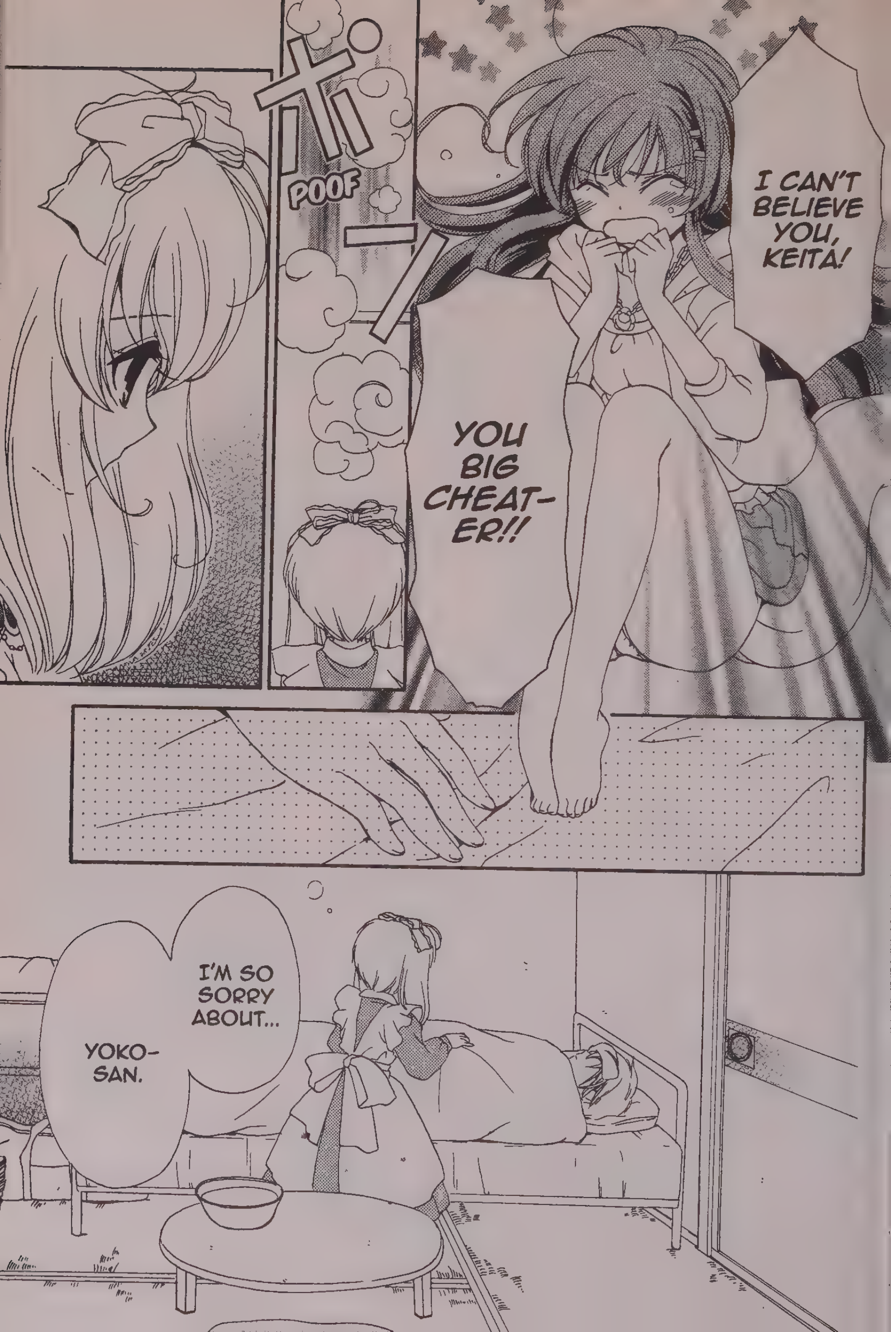

....
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
CHATTER
CHATTER
HAKE-SAMA, I'LL BE ON MY WAY NOW.
WELL, HOW ABOUT SOME *ICE CREAM* AFTER A HARD DAY'S WORK?
YEAH, I WANT SOME, TOO!
CHATTER
CHATTER
YOU ALREADY HAD SOME FOR ***BREAKFAST!***
TURN
WE'RE LEAVING.
EVERYONE.
NOW SAY GOOD-BYE TO ONII-SAMA.
YES...
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
SIGH...
THEY CERTAINLY HAVE A LOT OF *ISSUES.*

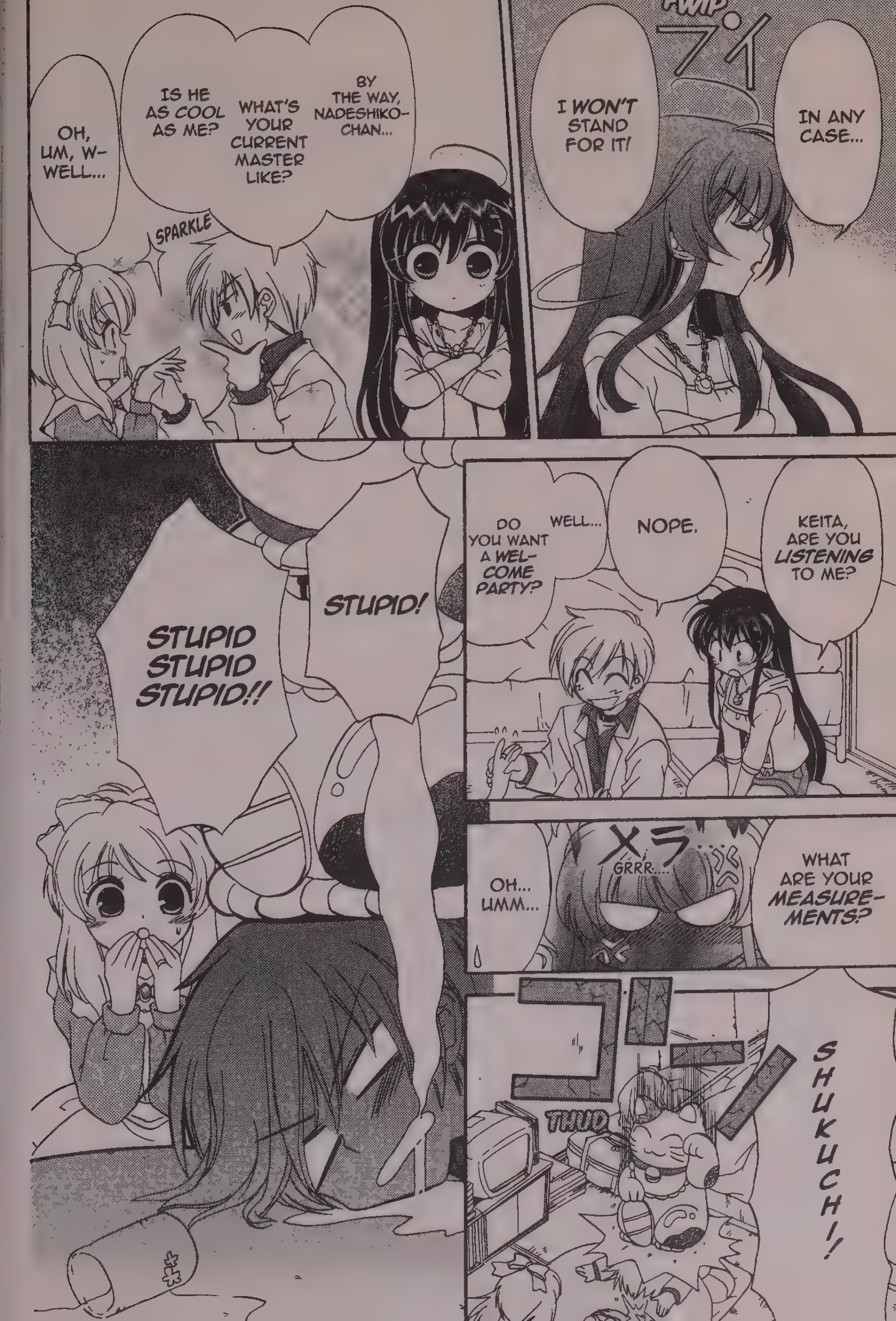

IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
I'M THE INUKAMI **NADESHIKO.**
I'M NOT VERY EXPERIENCED, BUT I'LL TRY TO SERVE YOU IN *ANY WAY* POSSIBLE.
YOU'RE HIRED!
SMACK
KEITA!!
AW, SHUCKS...
MY APARTMENT IS SO MESSY.
コポ
POUR
コポ
POUR

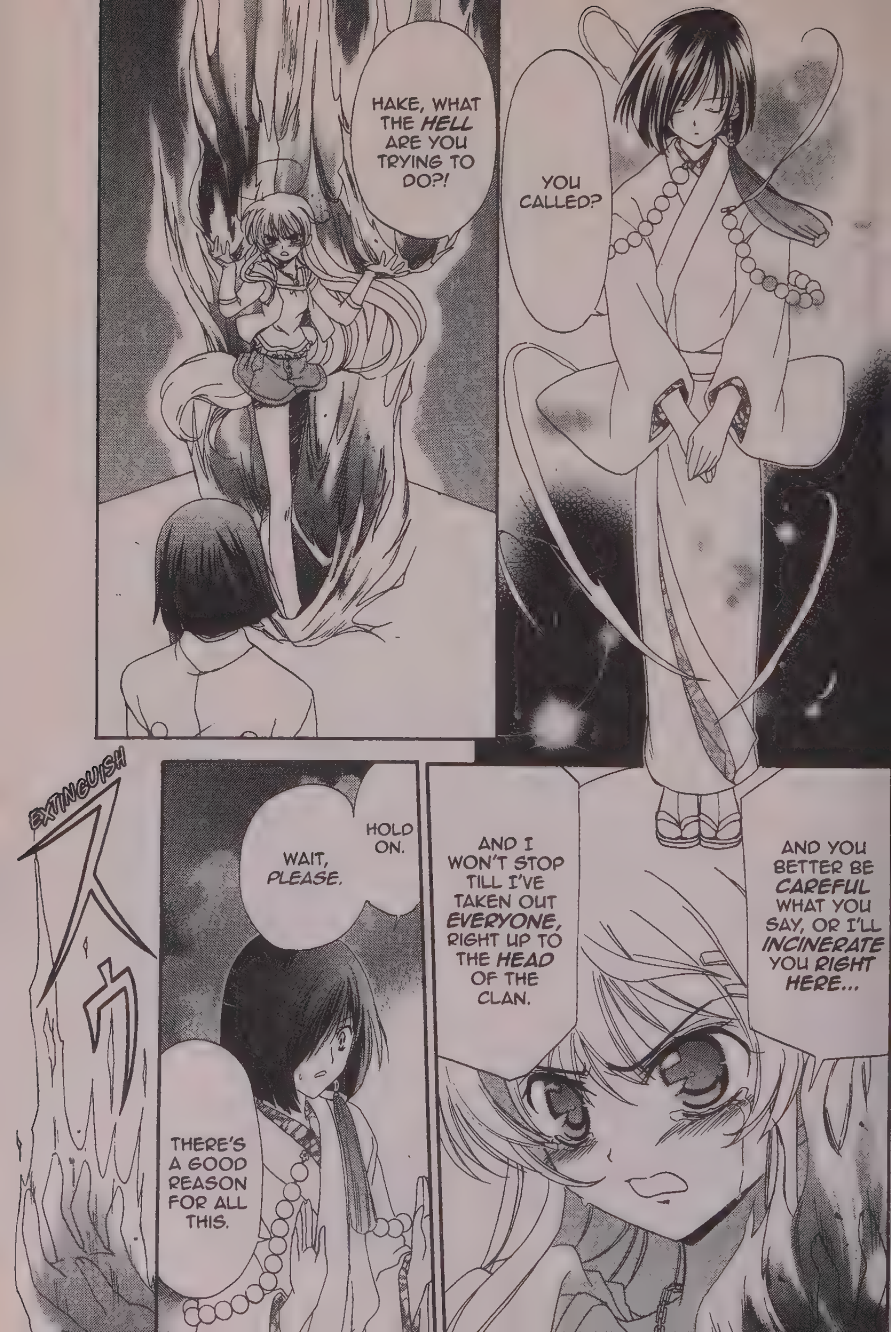

AND ANOTHER THING! WHY *EXACTLY* DO YOU HAVE *ANOTHER* INUKAMI COMING TO YOU, KEITA?!
THEY NEVER TOLD *ME* ABOUT IT!
I JUST HEARD MYSELF.
AND SHE SEEMS TO *LIKE ME*, JUST LIKE *YOU*.
BUT FOR *SOME* REASON...
SHE'S IN THE SERVICE OF ANOTHER MASTER RIGHT NOW.
UM, EXCUSE ME...
ARE YOU KAWAHIRA KEITA-SAMA?
BUT...
WHAT ABOUT *OUR* CONTRACT?!
WHAT CONTRACT?
Y...
YOU...

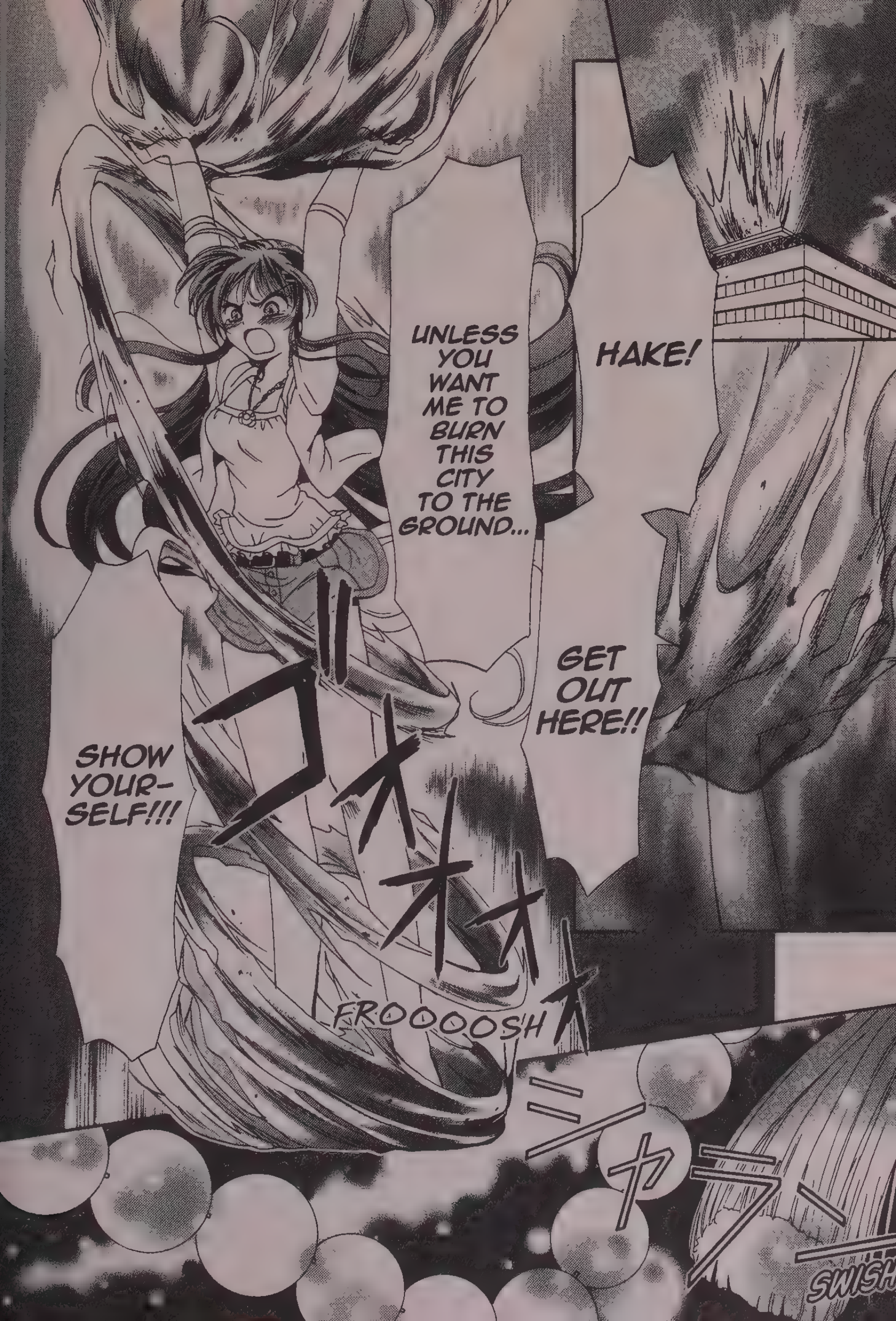

SO "NADESHIKO-CAN'T-GET-A-MAN"...
HAS TAKEN A *LIKING* TO KEITA.
YOKO-SAN...
WOW, NADESHIKO-CHAN...
SQUEEZE SQUEEZE SQUEEZE
I SEE THAT YOU AND YOKO *KNOW* EACH OTHER, HUH?
CRUSH
YES.
CRACK
WE BOTH COME...
FROM THE SAME INUKAMI COMMUNITY IN THE MOUNTAINS.

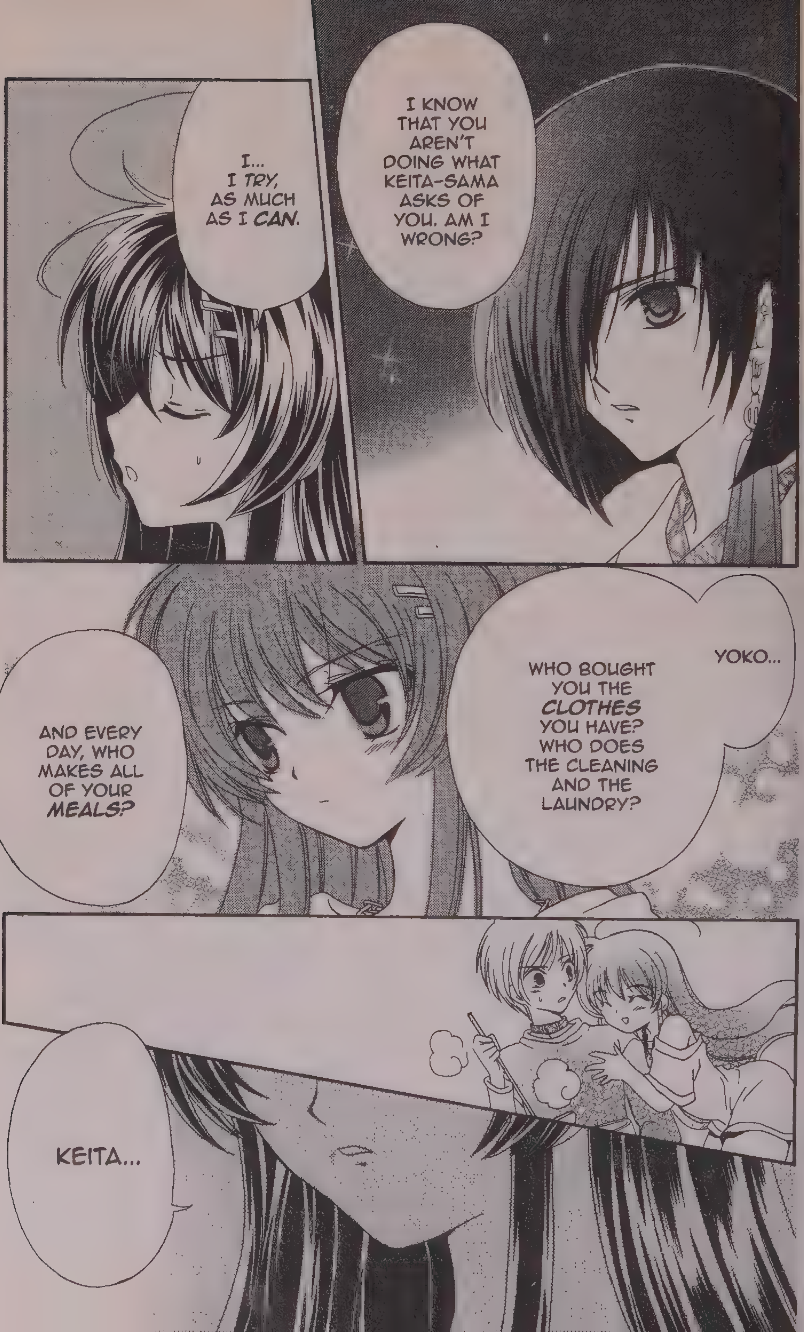

I'M SO EMBARRASSED.
OH, KEITA-SAMA, DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF.
I'LL POUR THE TEA.
POUR
POUR
コポ
POUR
コポ
POUR
OOOH~!
SHE'S SOOOOO CUTE~!
ピキ…
TRAITOR...
OH!
PLEASE USE THIS!
HUH?
ポ
BLUSH
I CAN...
LAY IN YOUR LAP WHILE YOU... CLEAN MY EARS.
OH, YES, I'D LOVE TO!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING?!!
チョップ
THWACK!
AND YOU...

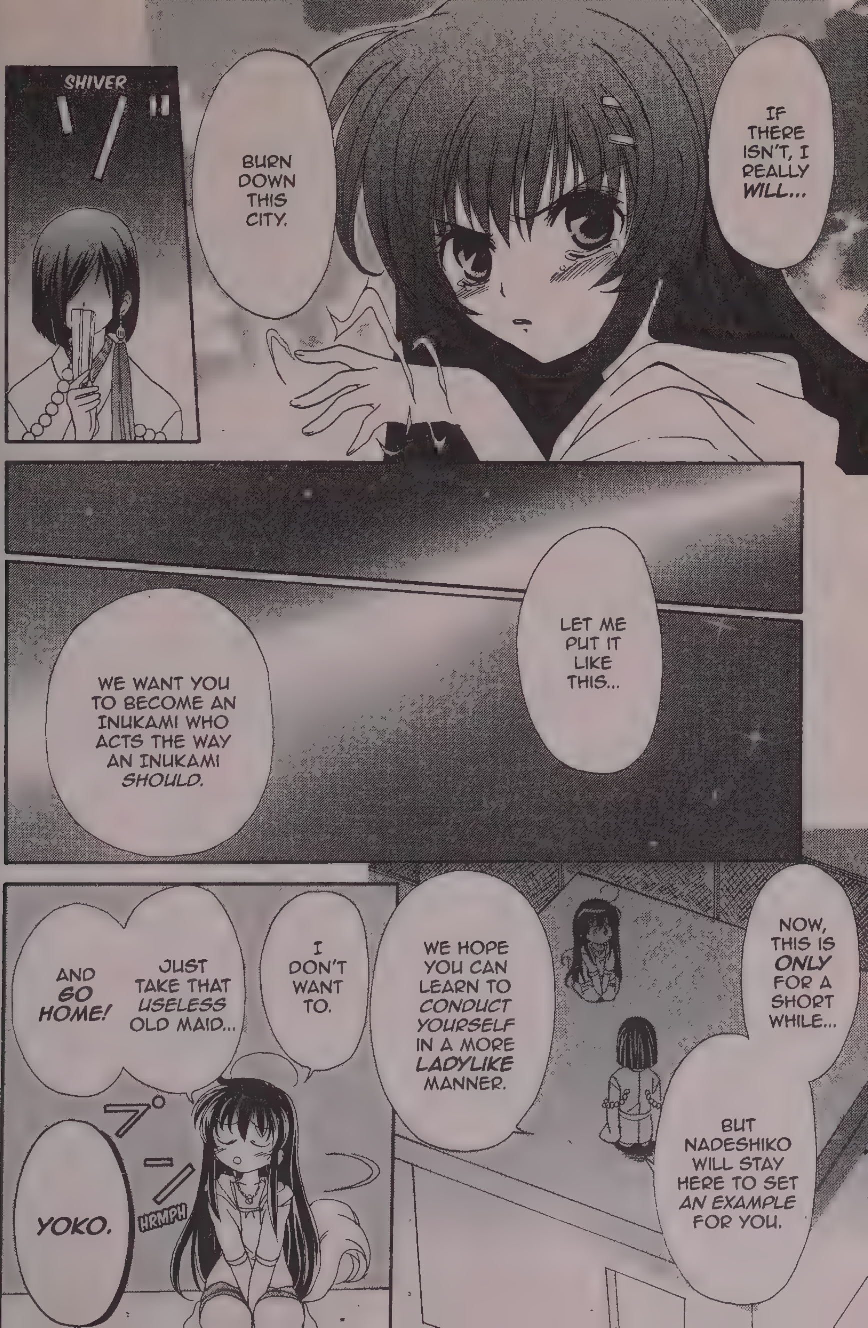

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU, KEITA!
YOU BIG CHEATER!!
ポン
POOF
I'M SO SORRY ABOUT...
YOKO-SAN.

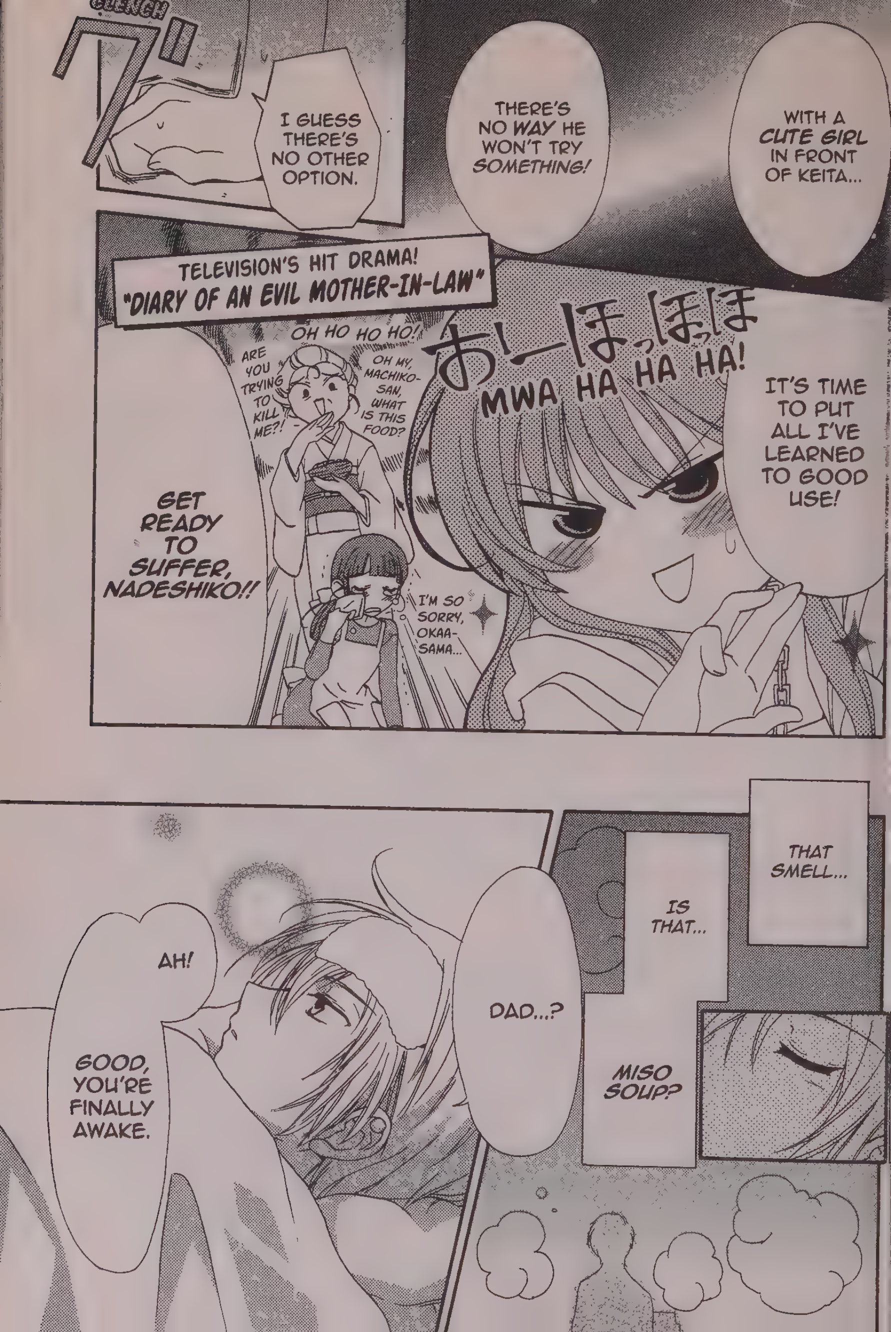

FWIP
フ・イ
IN ANY CASE...
I WON'T STAND FOR IT!
BY THE WAY, NADESHIKO-CHAN...
WHAT'S YOUR CURRENT MASTER LIKE?
IS HE AS COOL AS ME?
SPARKLE
OH, UM, W-WELL...
KEITA, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
NOPE.
WELL... DO YOU WANT A WELCOME PARTY?
WHAT ARE YOUR MEASUREMENTS?
メラ
GRRR....
OH... UMM...
STUPID!
STUPID STUPID STUPID!!
ゴーン
SHUKUCHI!!
THUD

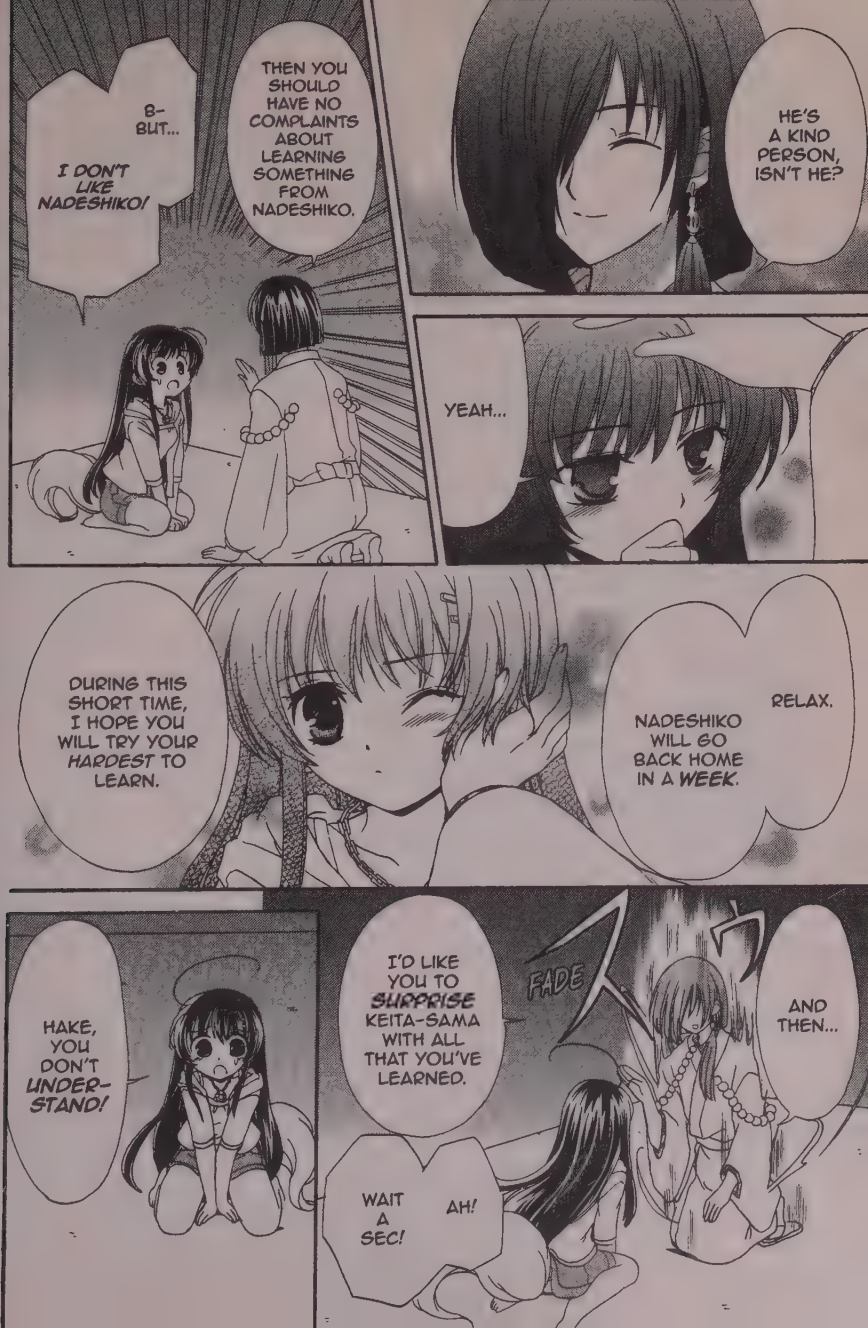

YOU CALLED?
HAKE, WHAT THE *HELL* ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?!
AND YOU BETTER BE *CAREFUL* WHAT YOU SAY, OR I'LL *INCINERATE* YOU *RIGHT HERE...*
AND I WON'T STOP TILL I'VE TAKEN OUT *EVERYONE*, RIGHT UP TO THE *HEAD* OF THE CLAN.
HOLD ON.
WAIT, *PLEASE.*
THERE'S A GOOD REASON FOR ALL THIS.
EXTINGUISH

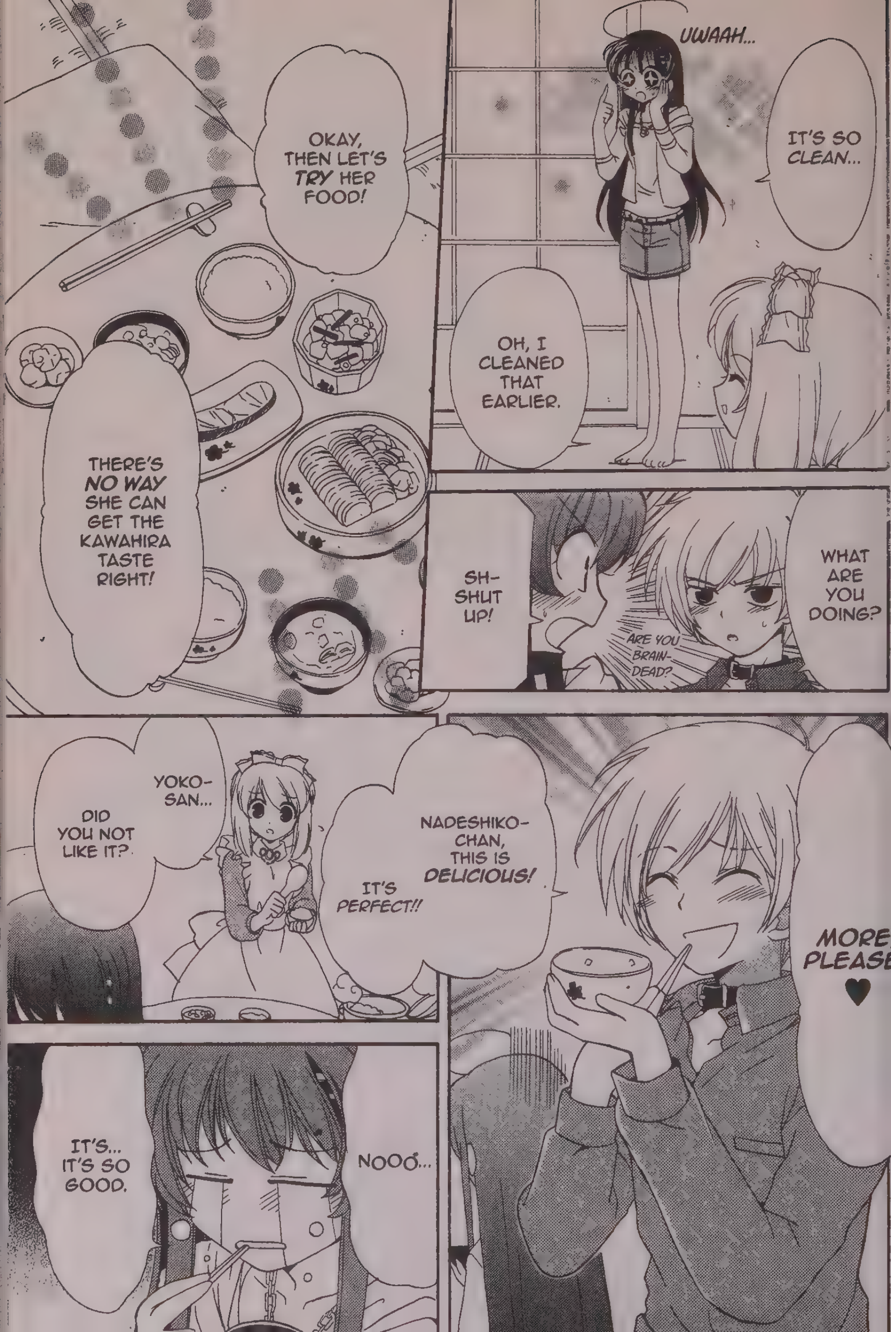

HAKE!
GET OUT HERE!!
UNLESS YOU WANT ME TO BURN THIS CITY TO THE GROUND...
SHOW YOURSELF!!!
ゴオオオオ
FROOOOOSH
SWISH

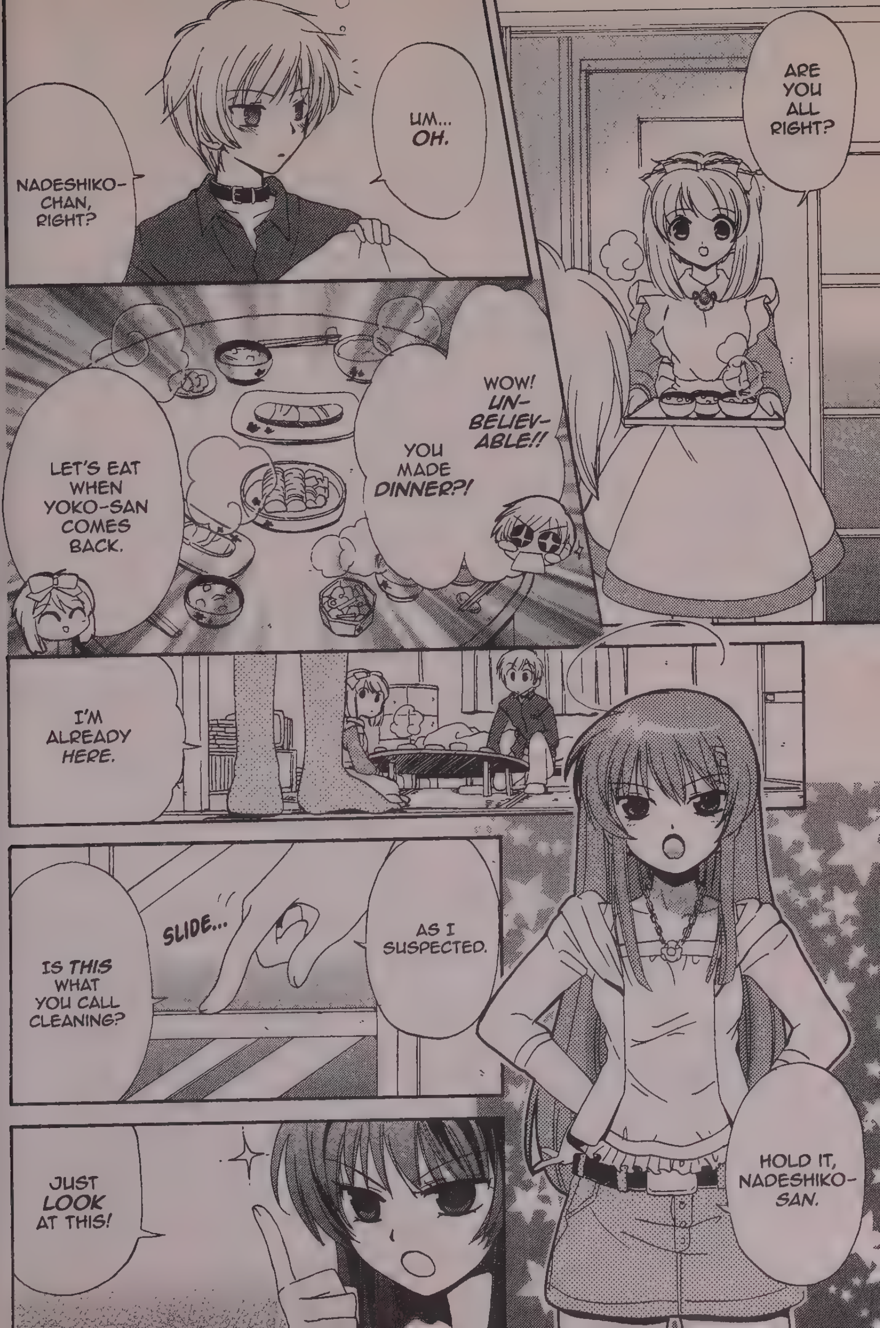

I KNOW THAT YOU AREN'T DOING WHAT KEITA-SAMA ASKS OF YOU. AM I WRONG?
I... I *TRY*, AS MUCH AS I *CAN*.
YOKO...
WHO BOUGHT YOU THE *CLOTHES* YOU HAVE? WHO DOES THE CLEANING AND THE LAUNDRY?
AND EVERY DAY, WHO MAKES ALL OF YOUR *MEALS?*
KEITA...

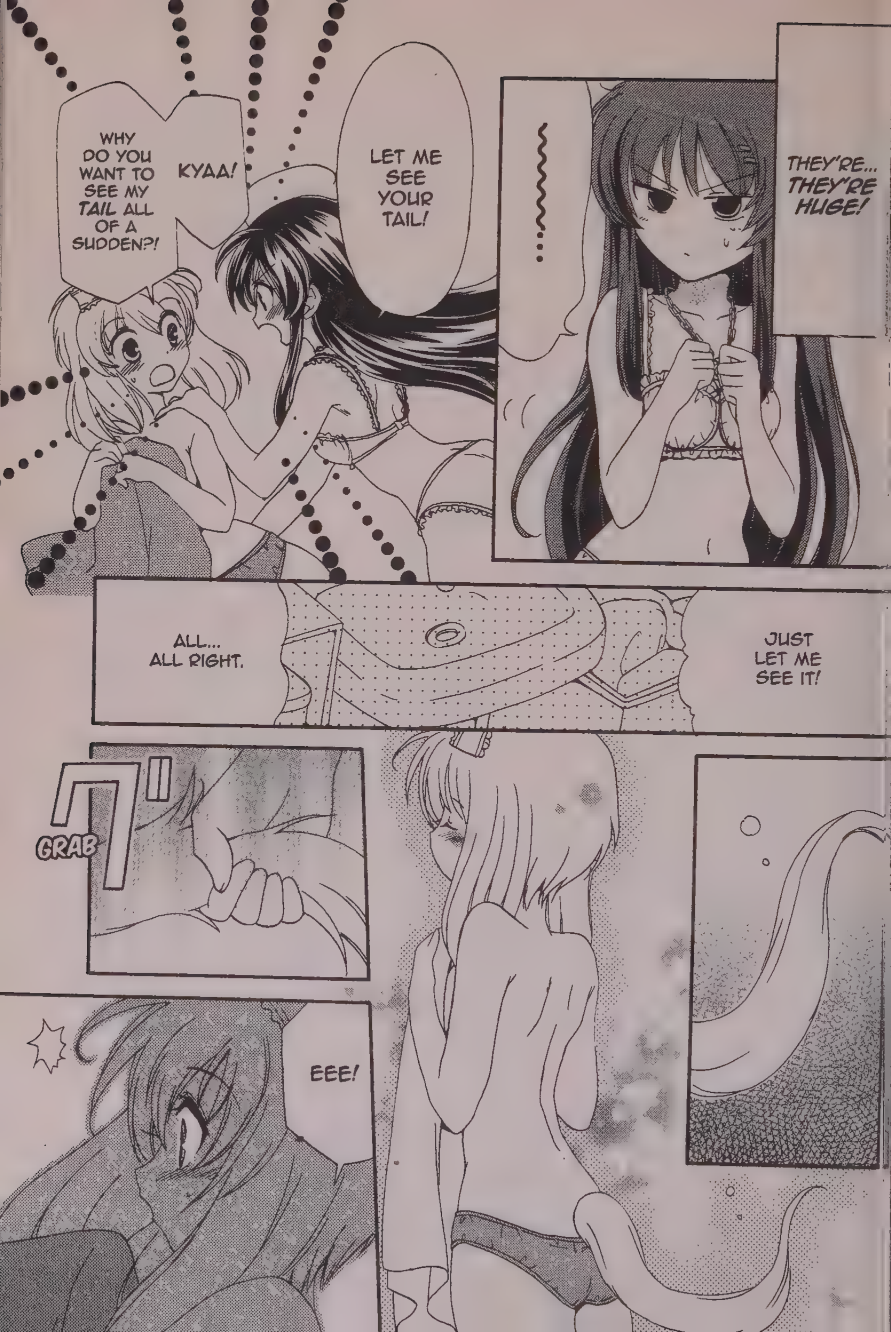

IF THERE ISN'T, I REALLY *WILL*...
BURN DOWN THIS CITY.
SHIVER
LET ME PUT IT LIKE THIS...
WE WANT YOU TO BECOME AN INUKAMI WHO ACTS THE WAY AN INUKAMI *SHOULD*.
NOW, THIS IS *ONLY* FOR A SHORT WHILE...
BUT NADESHIKO WILL STAY HERE TO SET *AN EXAMPLE* FOR YOU.
WE HOPE YOU CAN LEARN TO *CONDUCT YOURSELF* IN A MORE ***LADYLIKE*** MANNER.
I DON'T WANT TO.
JUST TAKE THAT *USELESS* OLD MAID...
AND ***GO HOME!***
HRMPH
YOKO.

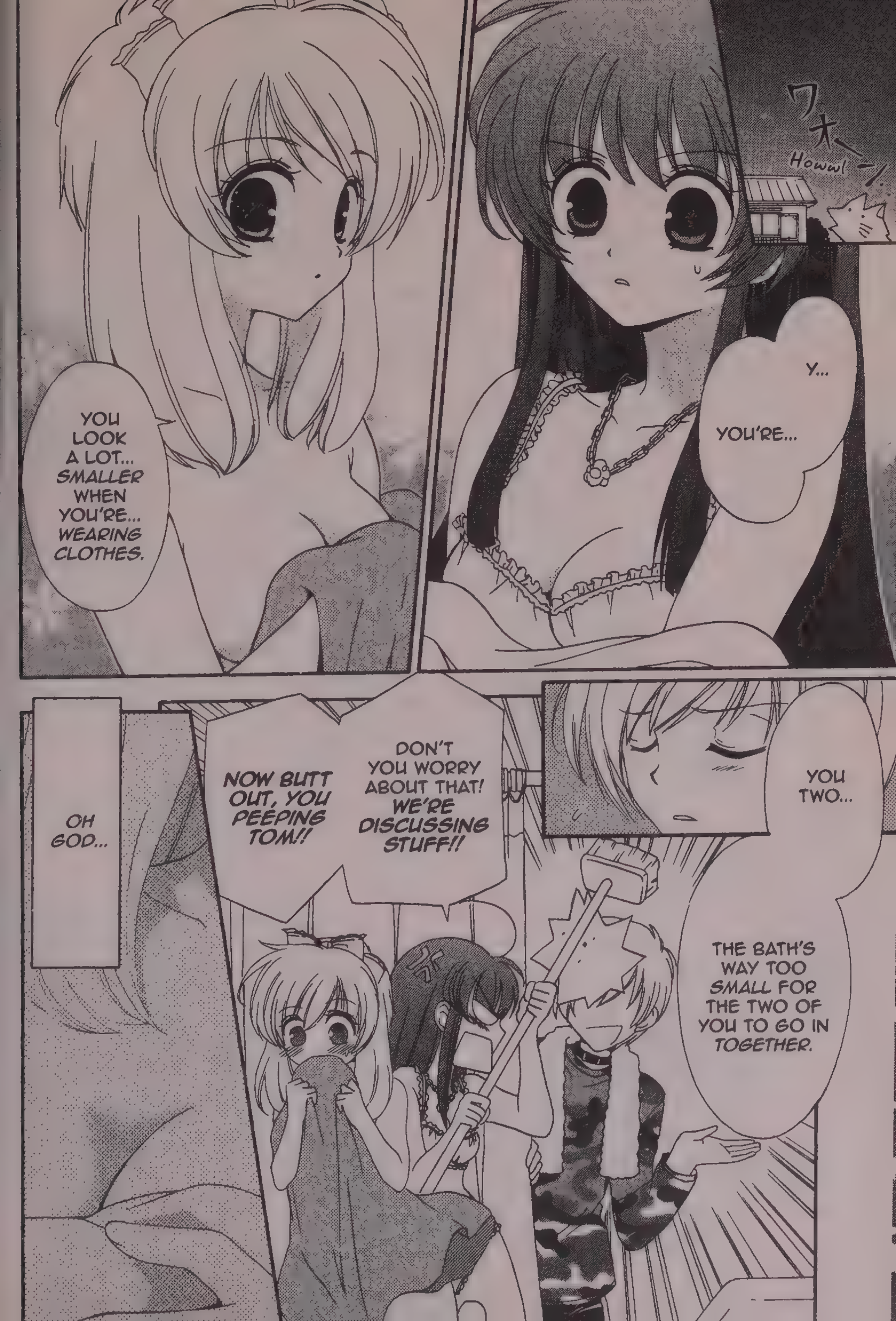

WITH A CUTE GIRL IN FRONT OF KEITA...
THERE'S NO WAY HE WON'T TRY SOMETHING!
I GUESS THERE'S NO OTHER OPTION.
CLENCH
グッ
IT'S TIME TO PUT ALL I'VE LEARNED TO GOOD USE!
おーほっほっほ
MWA HA HA HA!
TELEVISION'S HIT DRAMA! "DIARY OF AN EVIL MOTHER-IN-LAW"
OH HO HO HO!
OH MY, MACHIKO-SAN, WHAT IS THIS FOOD?
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?!
I'M SO SORRY, OKAA-SAMA...
GET READY TO SUFFER, NADESHIKO!!
THAT SMELL...
IS THAT...
MISO SOUP?
DAD...?
AH!
GOOD, YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE.

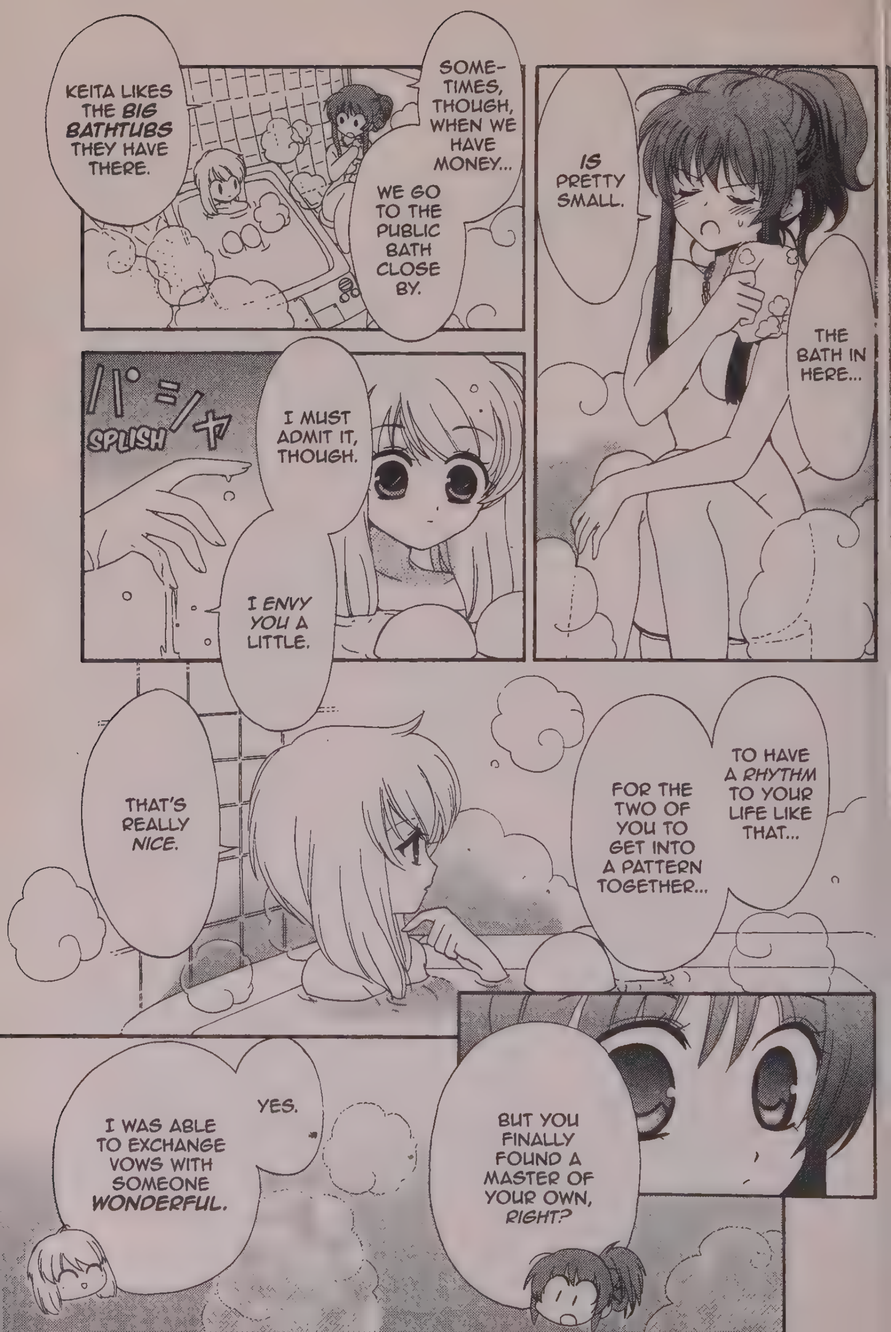

HE'S A KIND PERSON, ISN'T HE?
YEAH...
B-BUT...
I DON'T LIKE NADESHIKO!
THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT LEARNING SOMETHING FROM NADESHIKO.
RELAX.
NADESHIKO WILL GO BACK HOME IN A WEEK.
DURING THIS SHORT TIME, I HOPE YOU WILL TRY YOUR HARDEST TO LEARN.
AND THEN...
I'D LIKE YOU TO SURPRISE KEITA-SAMA WITH ALL THAT YOU'VE LEARNED.
FADE
AH!
WAIT A SEC!
HAKE, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

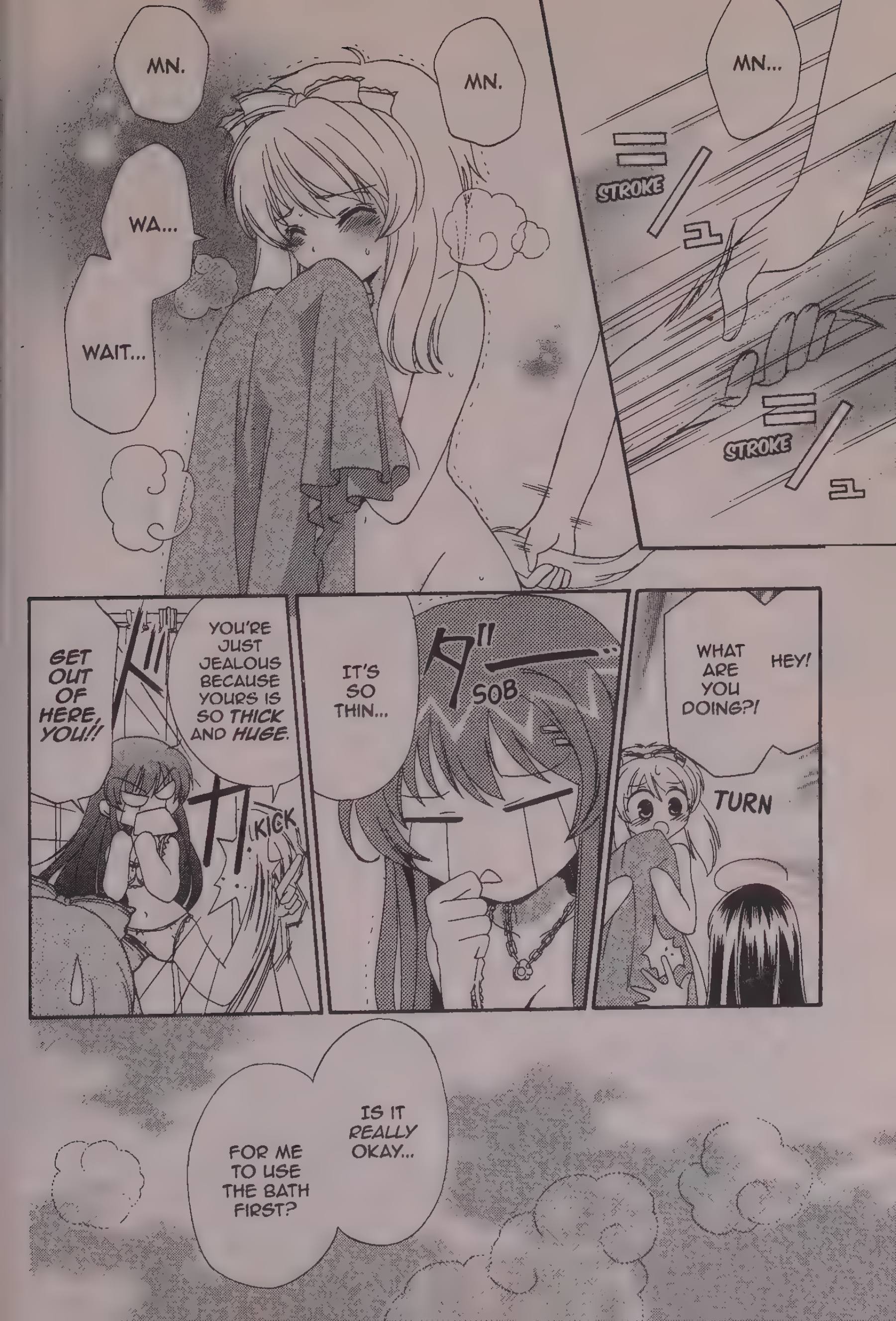

UWAAH...
IT'S SO CLEAN...
OH, I CLEANED THAT EARLIER.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ARE YOU BRAIN-DEAD?
SH-SHUT UP!
OKAY, THEN LET'S *TRY* HER FOOD!
THERE'S *NO WAY* SHE CAN GET THE KAWAHIRA TASTE RIGHT!
NADESHIKO-CHAN, THIS IS *DELICIOUS!*
IT'S PERFECT!!
MORE PLEASE ♥
YOKO-SAN...
DID YOU NOT LIKE IT?
NOOO...
IT'S... IT'S SO GOOD.

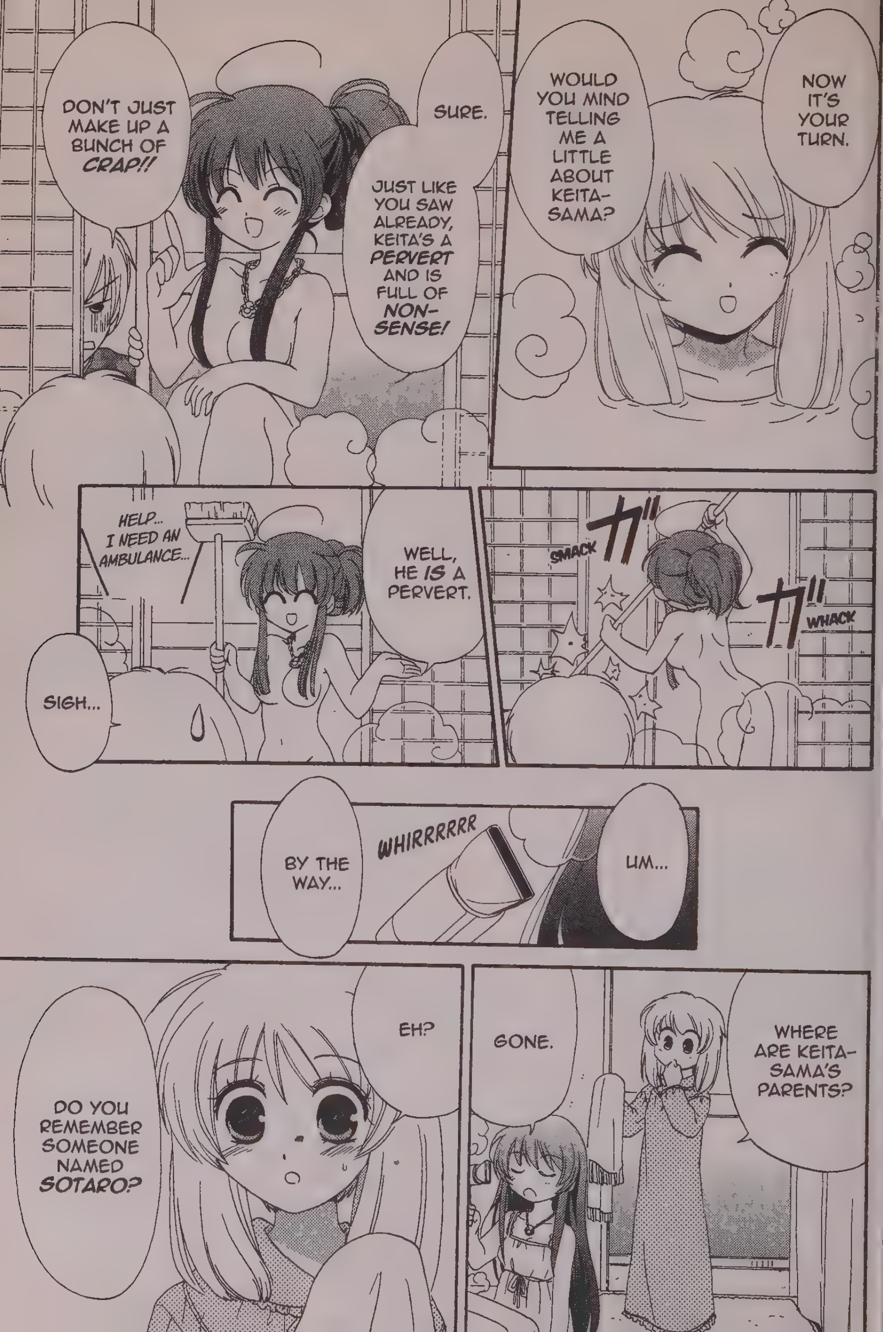

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
UM... *OH.*
NADESHIKO-CHAN, RIGHT?
WOW! *UN-BELIEVABLE!!*
YOU MADE *DINNER?!*
LET'S EAT WHEN YOKO-SAN COMES BACK.
I'M ALREADY *HERE.*
HOLD IT, NADESHIKO-*SAN.*
AS I SUSPECTED.
SLIDE...
IS *THIS* WHAT YOU CALL CLEANING?
JUST *LOOK* AT THIS!

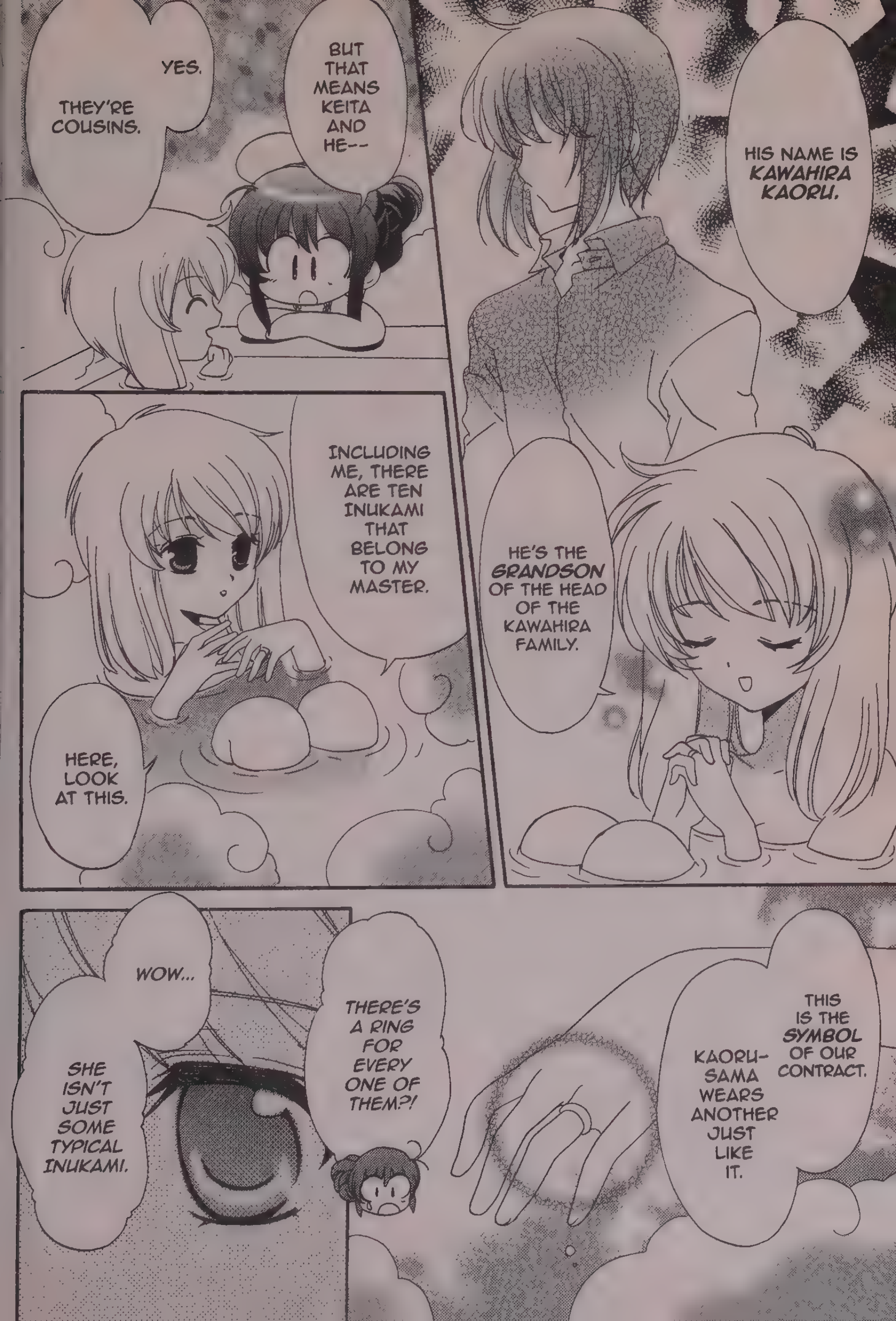

THEY'RE... THEY'RE HUGE!
LET ME SEE YOUR TAIL!
KYAA!
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SEE MY TAIL ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
JUST LET ME SEE IT!
ALL... ALL RIGHT.
GRAB
EEE!

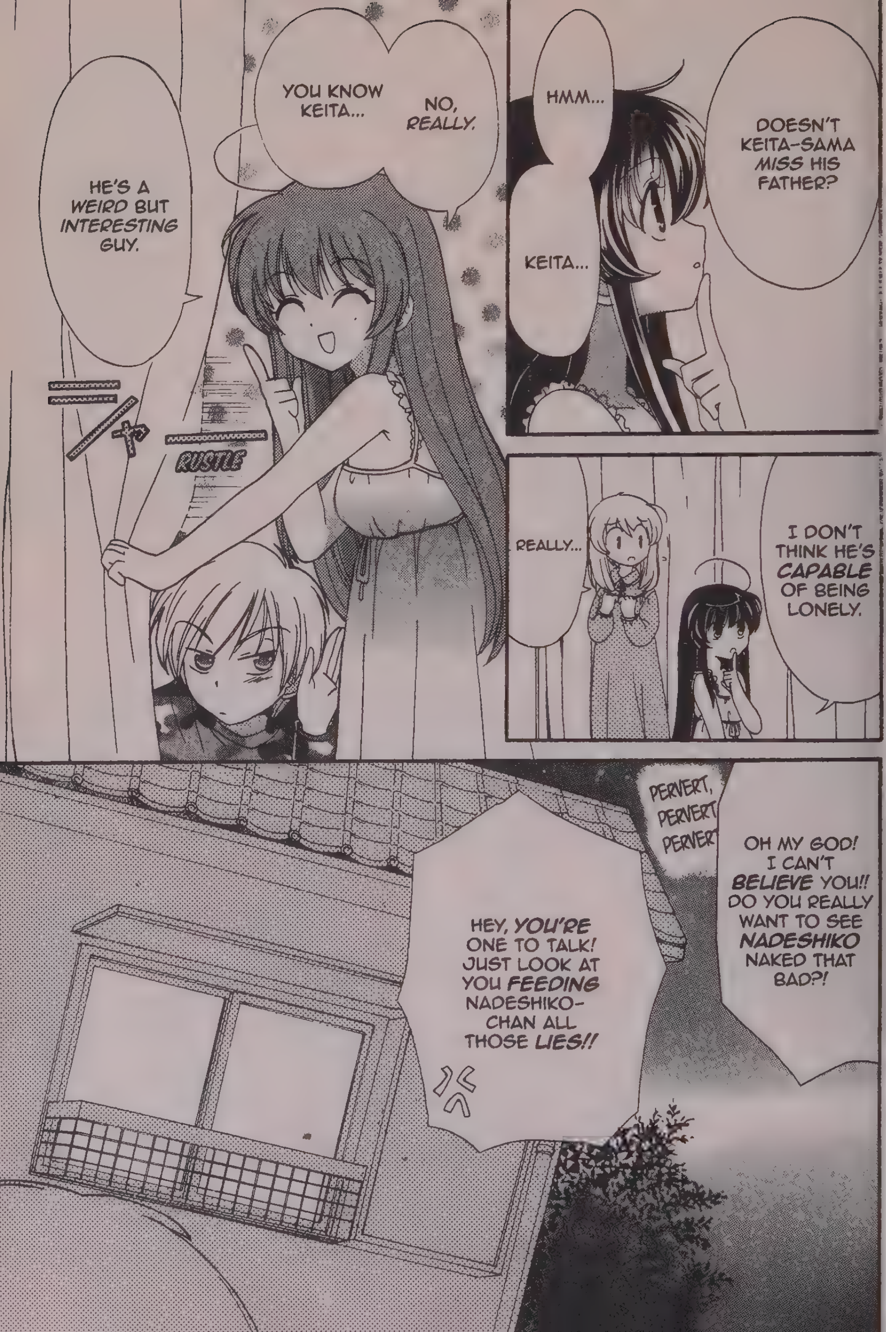

ワオー
Howwl
Y...
YOU'RE...
YOU LOOK A LOT... SMALLER WHEN YOU'RE... WEARING CLOTHES.
YOU TWO...
THE BATH'S WAY TOO SMALL FOR THE TWO OF YOU TO GO IN TOGETHER.
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT THAT! WE'RE DISCUSSING STUFF!!
NOW BUTT OUT, YOU PEEPING TOM!!
OH GOD...

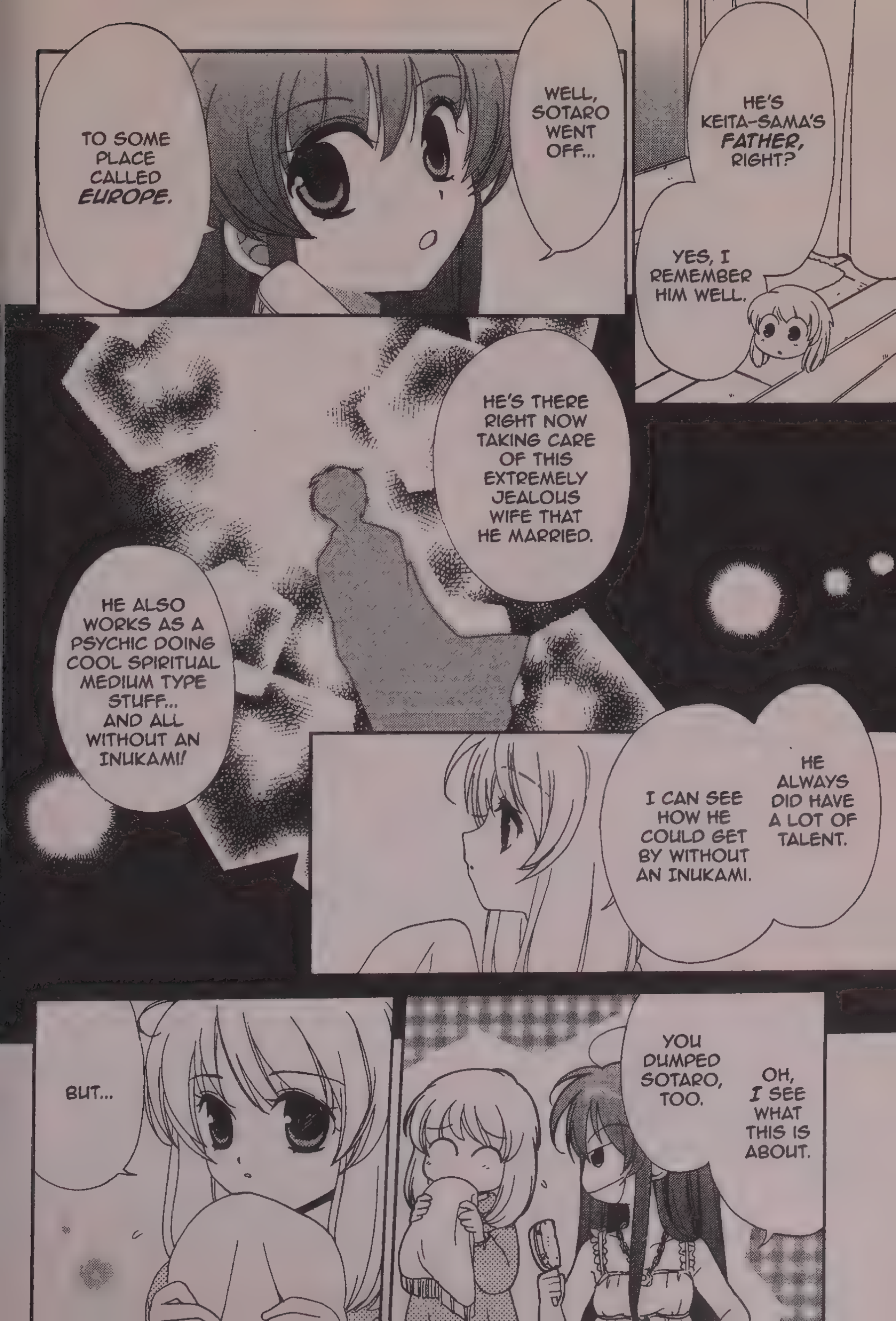

THE BATH IN HERE...
IS PRETTY SMALL.
SOMETIMES, THOUGH, WHEN WE HAVE MONEY...
WE GO TO THE PUBLIC BATH CLOSE BY.
KEITA LIKES THE *BIG BATHTUBS* THEY HAVE THERE.
パシャ
SPLISH
I MUST ADMIT IT, THOUGH.
I *ENVY* YOU A LITTLE.
TO HAVE A *RHYTHM* TO YOUR LIFE LIKE THAT...
FOR THE TWO OF YOU TO GET INTO A PATTERN TOGETHER...
THAT'S REALLY *NICE.*
BUT YOU FINALLY FOUND A MASTER OF YOUR OWN, *RIGHT?*
YES.
I WAS ABLE TO EXCHANGE VOWS WITH SOMEONE *WONDERFUL.*

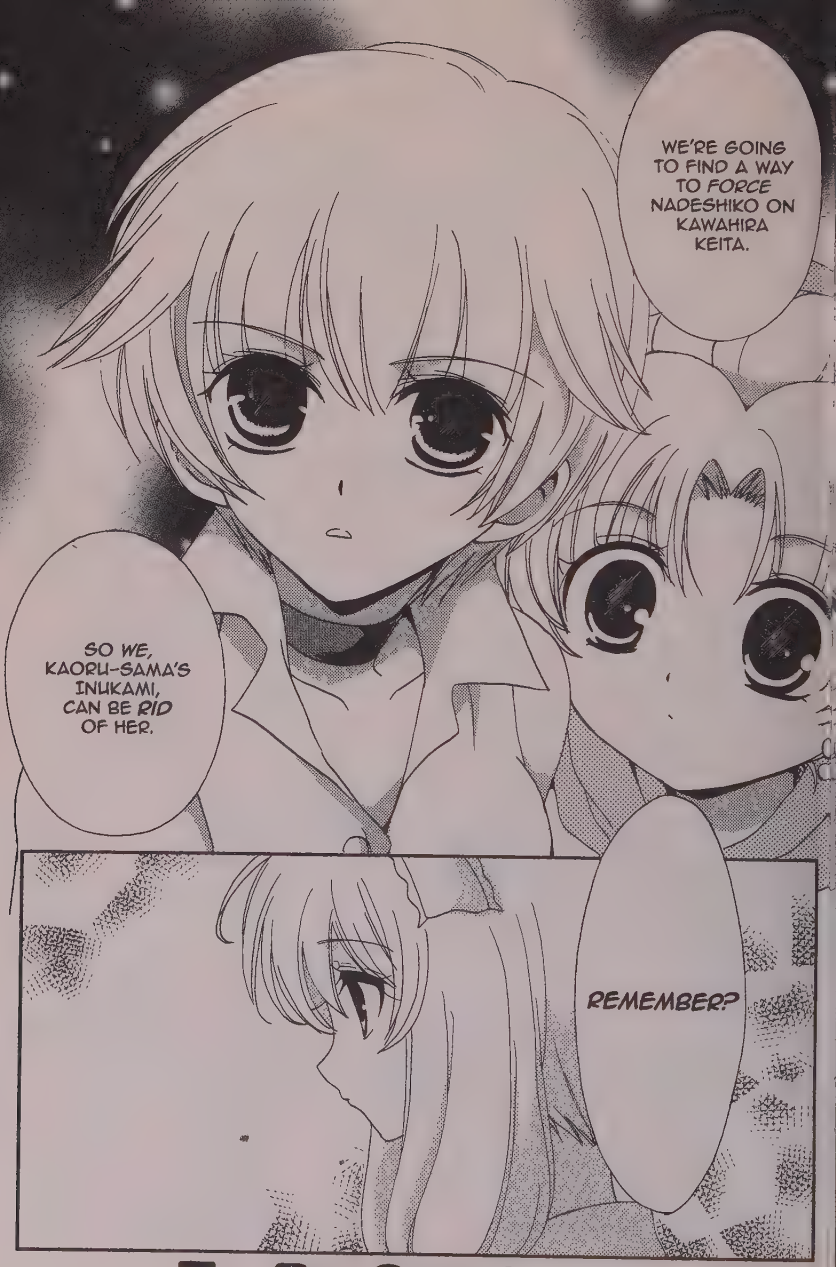

MN...
STROKE
STROKE
MN.
MN.
WA...
WAIT...
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
TURN
ダー
SOB
IT'S SO THIN...
ド
YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS BECAUSE YOURS IS SO *THICK* AND *HUGE*.
ガ
KICK
GET OUT OF HERE, YOU!!
IS IT REALLY OKAY...
FOR ME TO USE THE BATH FIRST?


NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.
WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME A LITTLE ABOUT KEITA-SAMA?
SURE.
JUST LIKE YOU SAW ALREADY, KEITA'S A *PERVERT* AND IS FULL OF *NONSENSE!*
DON'T JUST MAKE UP A BUNCH OF *CRAP!!*
ガ
SMACK
ガ
WHACK
WELL, HE *IS* A PERVERT.
HELP... I NEED AN AMBULANCE...
SIGH...
UM...
WHIRRRRRR
BY THE WAY...
WHERE ARE KEITA-SAMA'S PARENTS?
GONE.
EH?
DO YOU REMEMBER SOMEONE NAMED *SOTARO?*

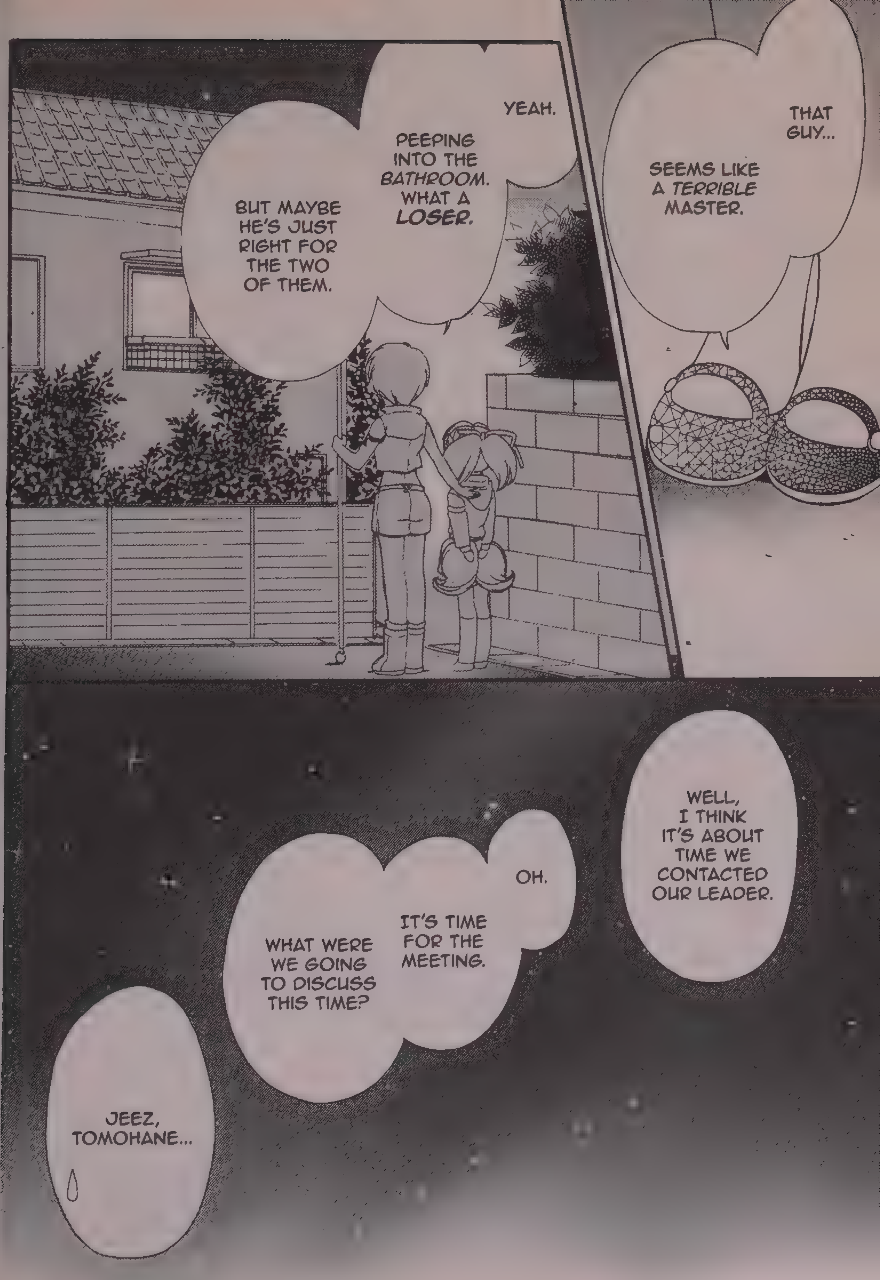

HIS NAME IS *KAWAHIRA KAORU.*
HE'S THE *GRANDSON* OF THE HEAD OF THE KAWAHIRA FAMILY.
BUT THAT MEANS KEITA AND HE--
YES. THEY'RE COUSINS.
INCLUDING ME, THERE ARE TEN INUKAMI THAT BELONG TO MY MASTER.
HERE, LOOK AT THIS.
THIS IS THE *SYMBOL* OF OUR CONTRACT.
KAORU-SAMA WEARS ANOTHER JUST LIKE IT.
THERE'S A RING FOR EVERY ONE OF THEM?!
WOW...
SHE ISN'T JUST SOME TYPICAL INUKAMI.

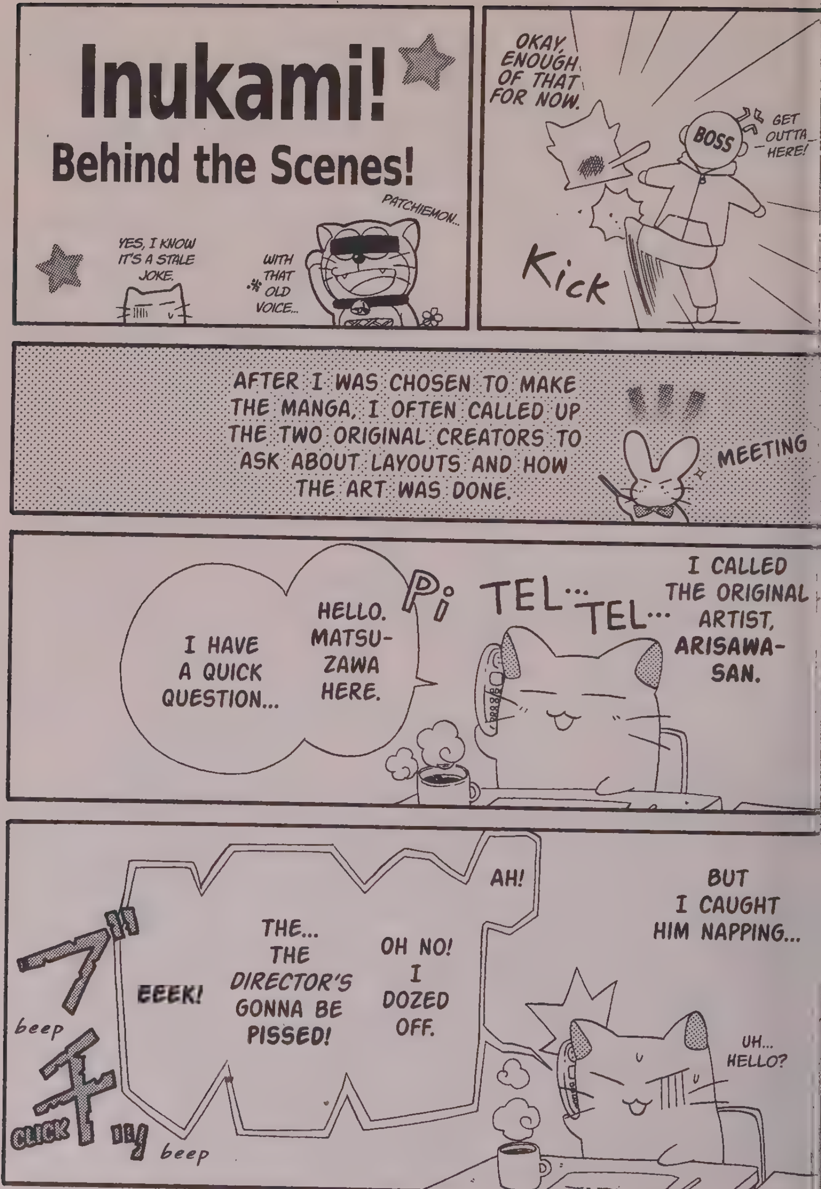

DOESN'T KEITA-SAMA MISS HIS FATHER?
HMM...
KEITA...
I DON'T THINK HE'S CAPABLE OF BEING LONELY.
REALLY...
YOU KNOW KEITA...
NO, REALLY.
HE'S A WEIRD BUT INTERESTING GUY.
RUSTLE
OH MY GOD! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!! DO YOU REALLY WANT TO SEE NADESHIKO NAKED THAT BAD?!
PERVERT, PERVERT PERVERT
HEY, YOU'RE ONE TO TALK! JUST LOOK AT YOU FEEDING NADESHIKO-CHAN ALL THOSE LIES!!


HE'S KEITA-SAMA'S *FATHER*, RIGHT?
YES, I REMEMBER HIM WELL.
WELL, SOTARO WENT OFF...
TO SOME PLACE CALLED *EUROPE*.
HE'S THERE RIGHT NOW TAKING CARE OF THIS EXTREMELY JEALOUS WIFE THAT HE MARRIED.
HE ALSO WORKS AS A PSYCHIC DOING COOL SPIRITUAL MEDIUM TYPE STUFF... AND ALL WITHOUT AN INUKAMI!
HE ALWAYS DID HAVE A LOT OF TALENT.
I CAN SEE HOW HE COULD GET BY WITHOUT AN INUKAMI.
OH, *I* SEE WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.
YOU DUMPED SOTARO, TOO.
BUT...

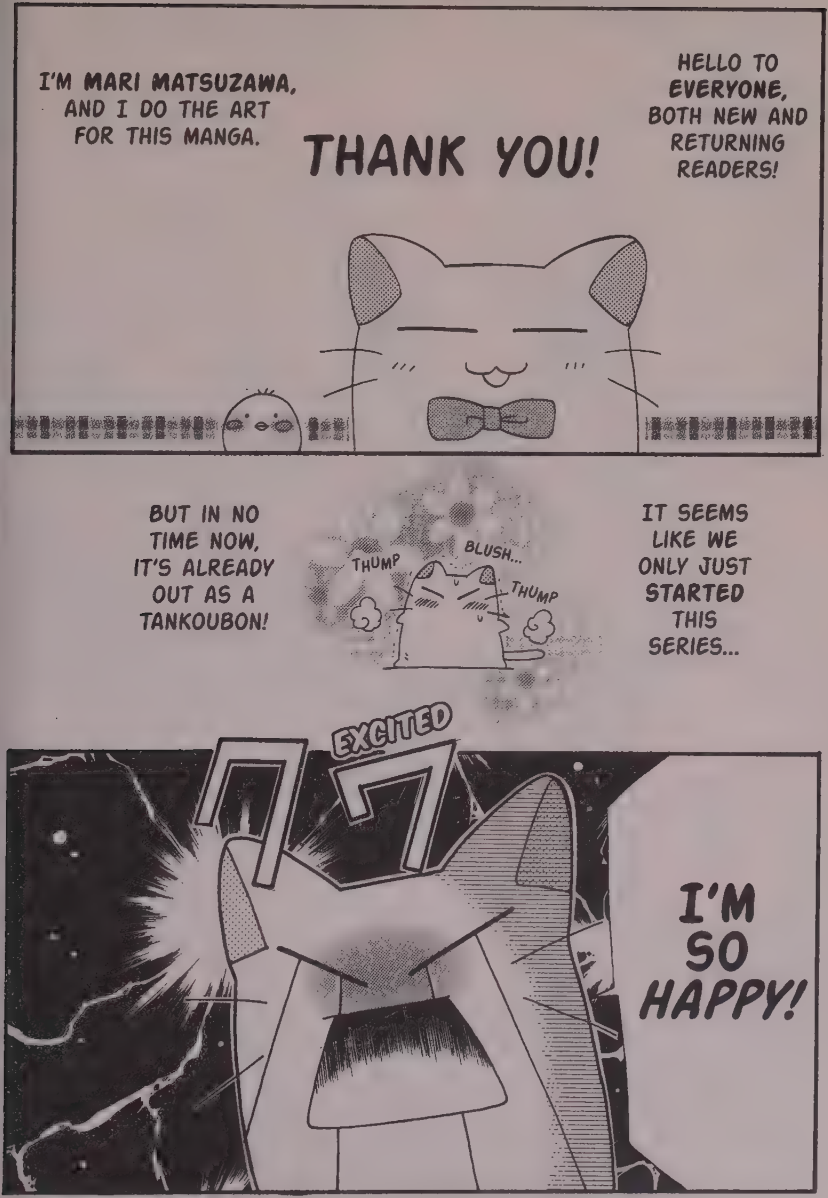

WE'RE GOING TO FIND A WAY TO *FORCE* NADESHIKO ON KAWAHIRA KEITA.
SO WE, KAORU-SAMA'S INUKAMI, CAN BE *RID* OF HER.
REMEMBER?

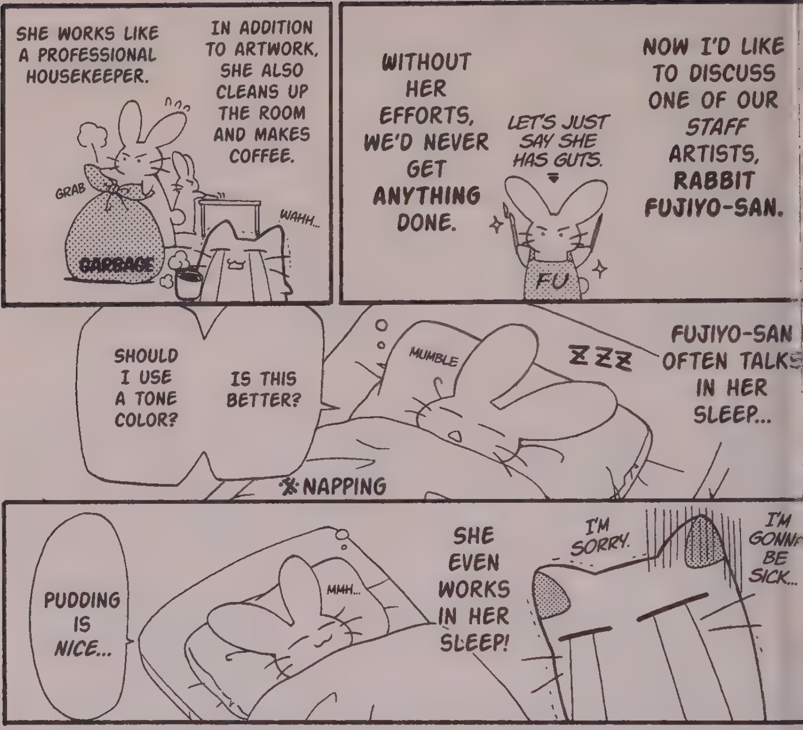
To Be Continued


THAT GUY...
SEEMS LIKE A *TERRIBLE* MASTER.
YEAH.
PEEPING INTO THE *BATHROOM.* WHAT A ***LOSER.***
BUT MAYBE HE'S JUST RIGHT FOR THE TWO OF THEM.
WELL, I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME WE CONTACTED OUR LEADER.
OH.
IT'S TIME FOR THE MEETING.
WHAT WERE WE GOING TO DISCUSS THIS TIME?
JEEZ, TOMOHANE...


OKAY, ENOUGH OF THAT FOR NOW.
BOSS
GET OUTTA HERE!
Kick
Inukami!
Behind the Scenes!
PATCHIEMON...
WITH THAT OLD VOICE...
YES, I KNOW IT'S A STALE JOKE.
MEETING
AFTER I WAS CHOSEN TO MAKE THE MANGA, I OFTEN CALLED UP THE TWO ORIGINAL CREATORS TO ASK ABOUT LAYOUTS AND HOW THE ART WAS DONE.
I CALLED THE ORIGINAL ARTIST, ARISAWA-SAN.
Pi TEL... TEL...
HELLO. MATSUZAWA HERE.
I HAVE A QUICK QUESTION...
BUT I CAUGHT HIM NAPPING...
UH... HELLO?
AH!
OH NO! I DOZED OFF.
THE... THE DIRECTOR'S GONNA BE PISSED!
EEEK!
beep
CLICK
beep

Afterword


HELLO TO EVERYONE, BOTH NEW AND RETURNING READERS!
I'M MARI MATSUZAWA, AND I DO THE ART FOR THIS MANGA.
THANK YOU!
IT SEEMS LIKE WE ONLY JUST STARTED THIS SERIES...
BUT IN NO TIME NOW, IT'S ALREADY OUT AS A TANKOUBON!
THUMP
BLUSH...
THUMP
EXCITED
I'M SO HAPPY!


NOW I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS ONE OF OUR STAFF ARTISTS, RABBIT FUJIYO-SAN.
LET'S JUST SAY SHE HAS GUTS.
WITHOUT HER EFFORTS, WE'D NEVER GET ANYTHING DONE.
FU
IN ADDITION TO ARTWORK, SHE ALSO CLEANS UP THE ROOM AND MAKES COFFEE.
SHE WORKS LIKE A PROFESSIONAL HOUSEKEEPER.
WAHH...
GRAB
GARBAGE
FUJIYO-SAN OFTEN TALKS IN HER SLEEP...
ZZZ
MUMBLE
IS THIS BETTER?
SHOULD I USE A TONE COLOR?
※NAPPING
I'M GONN BE SICK...
I'M SORRY.
SHE EVEN WORKS IN HER SLEEP!
MMH...
PUDDING IS NICE...

Special Thanks ✿

MAMIZU ARISAWA-SAMA

KANNA WAKATSUKI-SAMA

KISHO FUJIYO-SAMA

ALL THE DIVISION CHIEFS.

MY FAMILY.

AND EVERYONE!

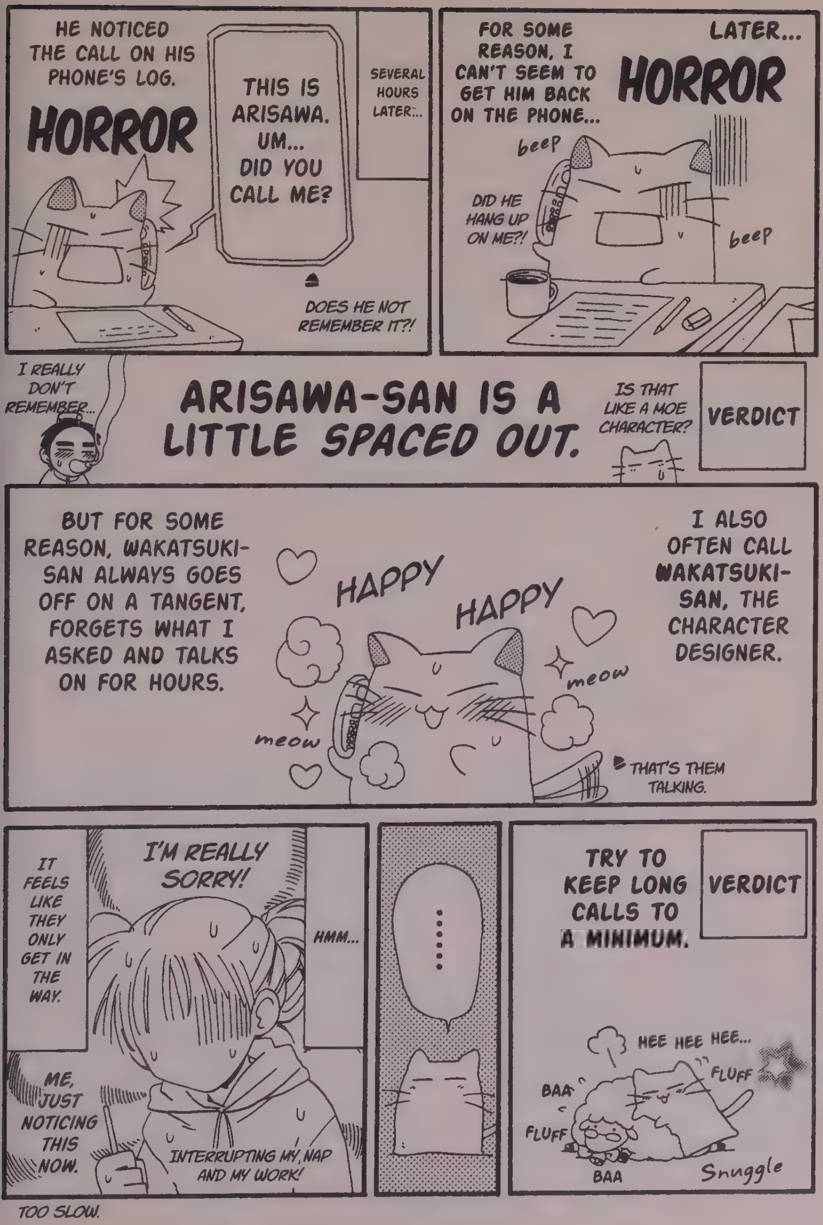
INUKAMI'S MANGA WOULDN'T EXIST WITHOUT THE HELP OF SO MANY PEOPLE. I'D LIKE TO GIVE MY **SINCEREST THANKS** TO EVERY ONE OF THEM.

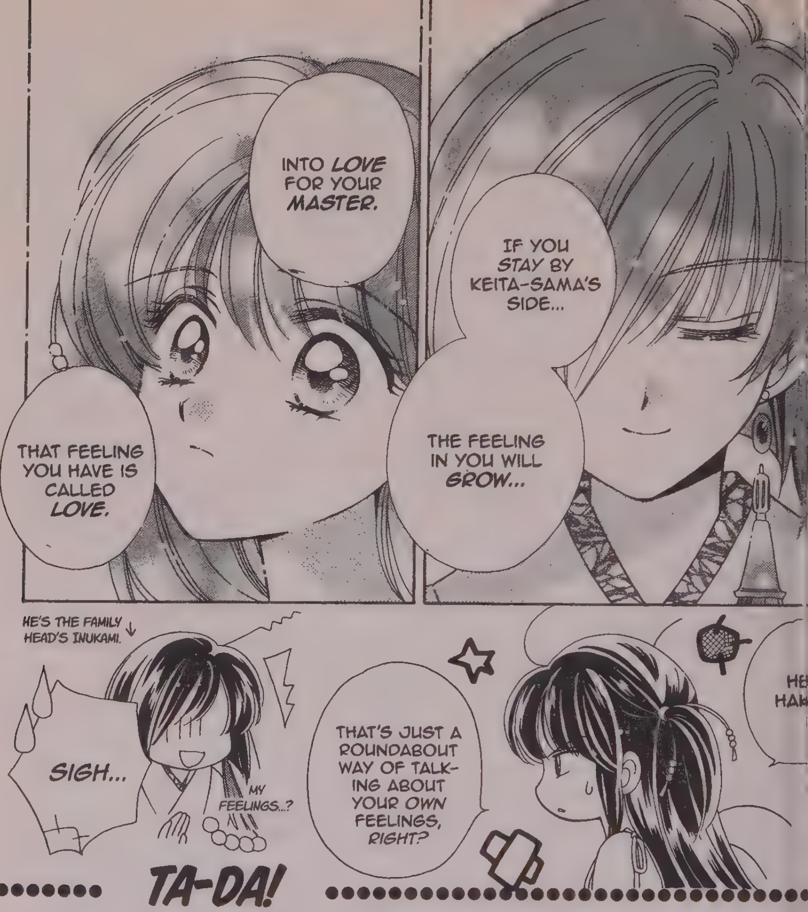
AND TO ALL MY READERS: I'D BE SO HAPPY TO LEARN THAT YOU GOT EVEN A LITTLE ENJOYMENT OUT OF THIS MANGA.

I KNOW I'VE STILL GOT A LOT TO LEARN, BUT I'LL KEEP TRYING.

SEE YOU IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

REALLY.
SORRY FOR WRITING SO MUCH.


LATER...
FOR SOME REASON, I CAN'T SEEM TO GET HIM BACK ON THE PHONE...
HORROR
beep
DID HE HANG UP ON ME?!
beep
SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
HE NOTICED THE CALL ON HIS PHONE'S LOG.
HORROR
THIS IS ARISAWA. UM... DID YOU CALL ME?
DOES HE NOT REMEMBER IT?!
VERDICT
ARISAWA-SAN IS A LITTLE SPACED OUT.
IS THAT LIKE A MOE CHARACTER?
I REALLY DON'T REMEMBER...
I ALSO OFTEN CALL WAKATSUKI-SAN, THE CHARACTER DESIGNER.
BUT FOR SOME REASON, WAKATSUKI-SAN ALWAYS GOES OFF ON A TANGENT, FORGETS WHAT I ASKED AND TALKS ON FOR HOURS.
HAPPY
HAPPY
meow
meow
THAT'S THEM TALKING.
HMM...
I'M REALLY SORRY!
IT FEELS LIKE THEY ONLY GET IN THE WAY.
ME, JUST NOTICING THIS NOW.
INTERRUPTING MY NAP AND MY WORK!
......
VERDICT
TRY TO KEEP LONG CALLS TO A MINIMUM.
HEE HEE HEE...
FLUFF
BAA
FLUFF
BAA
Snuggle
TOO SLOW.


IF YOU STAY BY KEITA-SAMA'S SIDE...
THE FEELING IN YOU WILL GROW...
INTO LOVE FOR YOUR MASTER.
THAT FEELING YOU HAVE IS CALLED LOVE.
HE HAK
THAT'S JUST A ROUNDABOUT WAY OF TALKING ABOUT YOUR OWN FEELINGS, RIGHT?
MY FEELINGS...?
SIGH...
HE'S THE FAMILY HEAD'S INUKAMI.
TA-DA!

AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO THOUGHT THAT? HI THERE, THIS IS **KANNA WAKATSUKI.** CONGRATULATIONS ON THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE *INUKAMI!* MANGA! I WISH I COULD'VE BEEN IN BETTER SHAPE, MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY, WHEN SHE CALLED ME. **SORRY!** I'M REALLY WORN OUT. I HAVE TO THANK MATSUZAWA-SAN FOR ALWAYS BEING THERE TO CHEER ME UP, EVEN WHEN SHE WAS UNDER DEADLINE PRESSURE. I HOPE SHE CAN GIVE ME PIGGYBACK RIDES AGAIN. (HEE HEE!) AND, AND...! WHEN WE OPEN THE MANUSCRIPT, LET'S GO TO A HOT SPRING. I'LL TRY TO BE FREE TO GO ALONG.

P.S. I'M SO *HAPPY* THAT HAKE HAS A LOT OF SCENES. **HAKE!**

IN THE MANGA.

06.3

From the Creator and Character Designers

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE MANGA! ORIGINAL CREATOR ARISAWA HERE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT, EVERYONE.

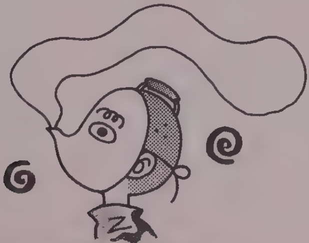
WHEN I FIRST HEARD A WOMAN WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF MAKING THE *INUKAMI!* MANGA, I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED. "WOULD A WOMAN BE OKAY WITH WRITING A MANGA FULL OF RISQUÉ JOKES LIKE THIS?" WAS MY FIRST THOUGHT.

MY SECOND THOUGHT WAS, "I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO HER." BUT WHEN IT WAS FINISHED AND I OPENED IT UP, WHAT SHE'D PREPARED FOR ME COMPLETELY EXCEEDED MY EXPECTATIONS. I CAN SAY THAT WITHOUT EXAGGERATION OR FLATTERY. THIS MANGA IS MORE INTERESTING THAN THE ORIGINAL LIGHT NOVELS.

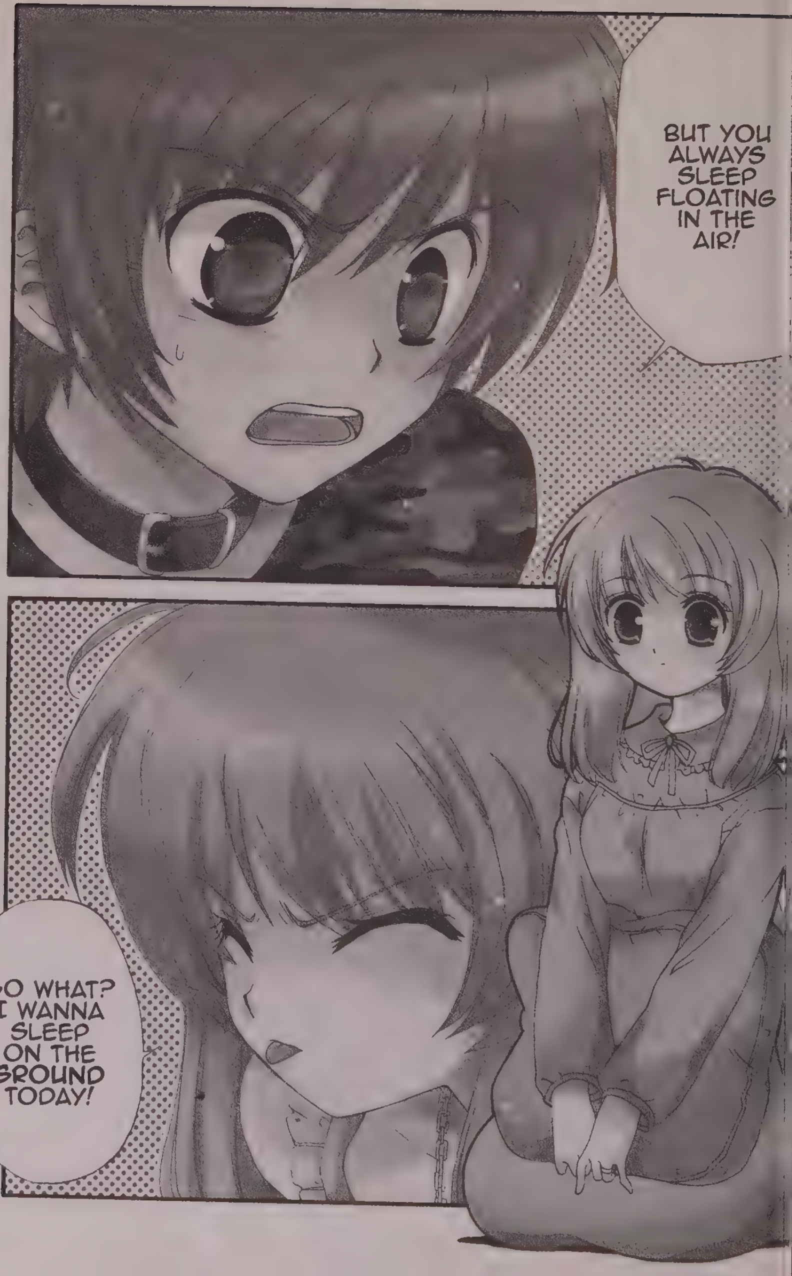
OOPS, I SAID IT...

I KNOW IT'S NOT SOMETHING A WRITER IS SUPPOSED TO SAY, BUT THAT'S HOW GREAT MATSUZAWA-SENSEI'S *INUKAMI!* MANGA IS. YOKO IS A PERVERT! KEITA'S A REAL DUMMY! FROM THE ACTION TO THE CUTE STUFF, WITH A LITTLE GUTTER HUMOR THROWN IN, THERE ISN'T A PART THAT DOESN'T FIT. I HOPE YOU'LL ENJOY IT.

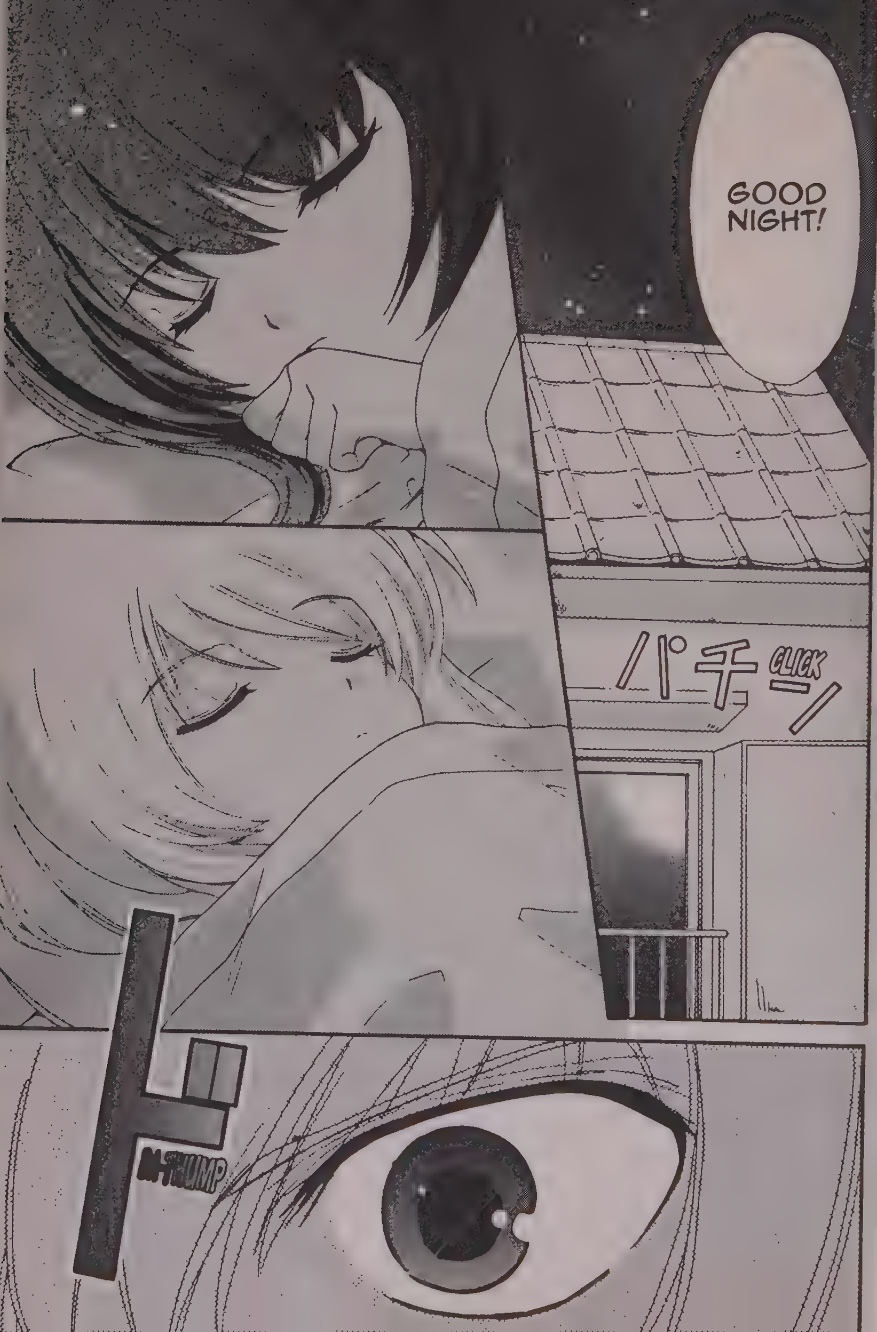
AND, IF YOU CAN, PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE ORIGINAL *INUKAMI!* LIGHT NOVELS. THE *INUKAMI!* ANIME IS ALSO STARTING IN APRIL IN JAPAN, SO IF YOU LIKE THE MANGA, PLEASE GIVE THE ANIME A TRY. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL PICK UP THE NEXT VOLUME OF THE MANGA, TOO!

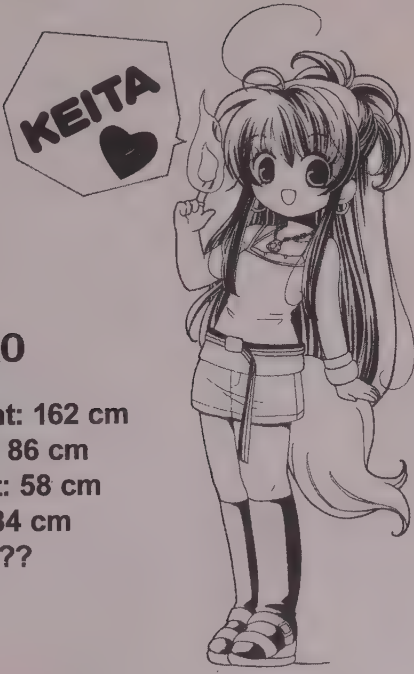


MAMIZU ARISAWA


BUT YOU ALWAYS SLEEP FLOATING IN THE AIR!
SO WHAT? I WANNA SLEEP ON THE GROUND TODAY!

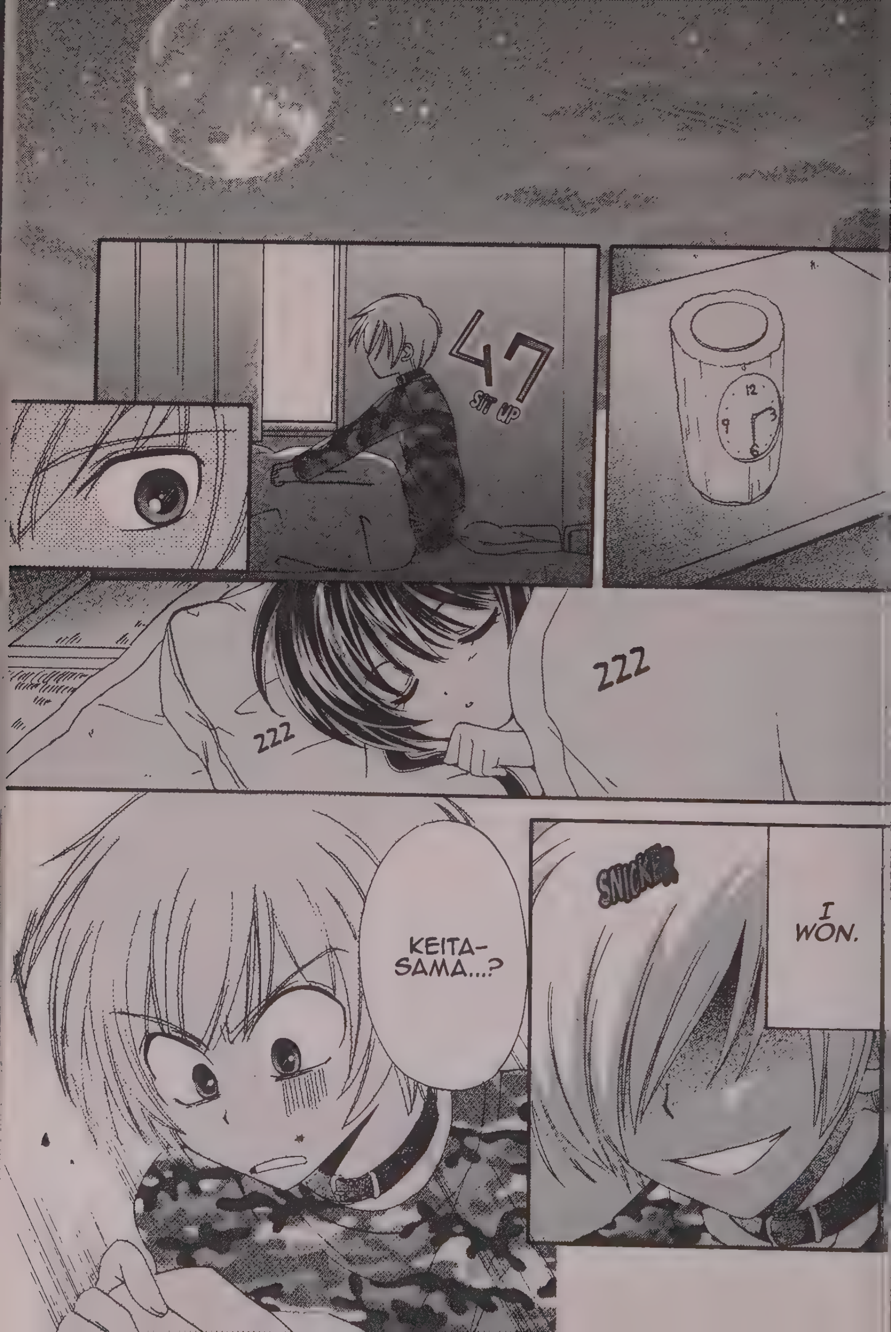
Step.6 Enter Nadeshiko: Part 2

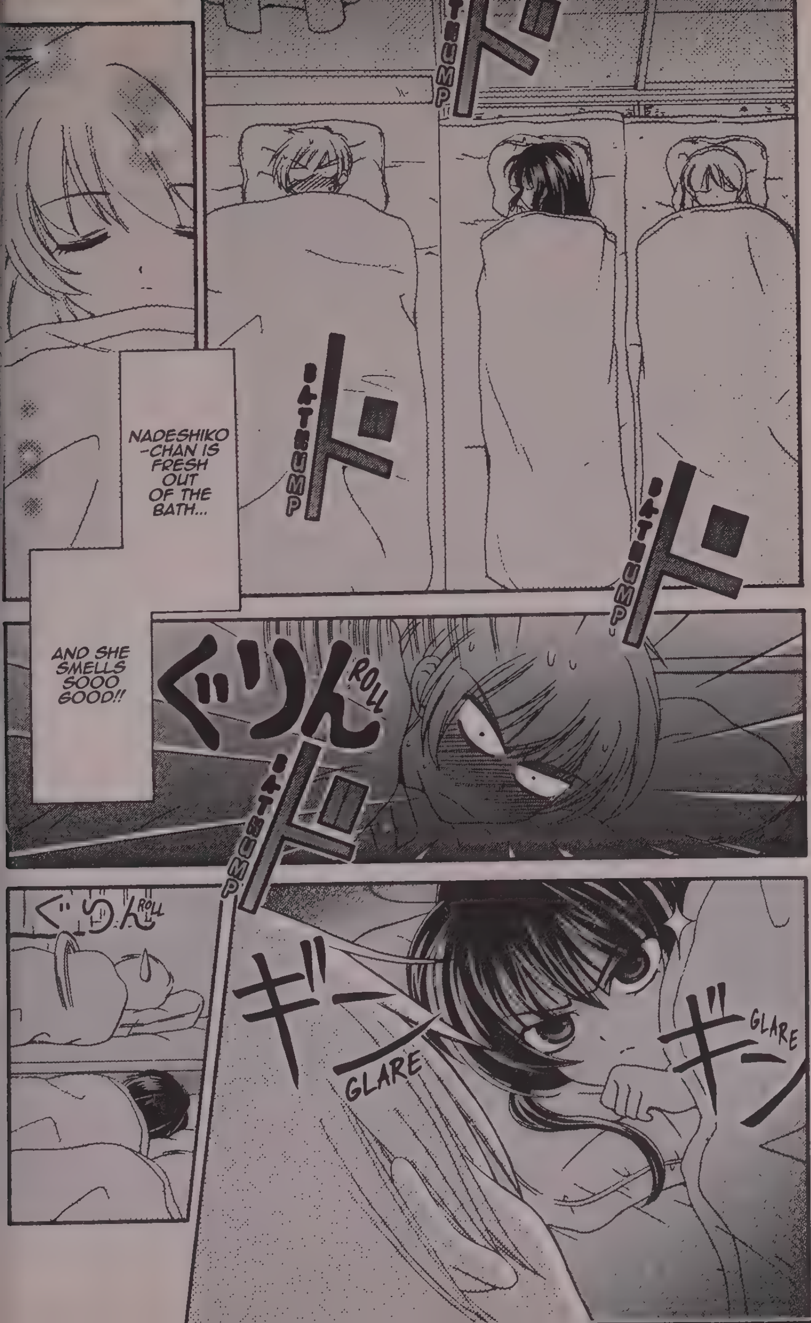

GOOD NIGHT!
パチーン
CLICK
ド
BA-THUMP

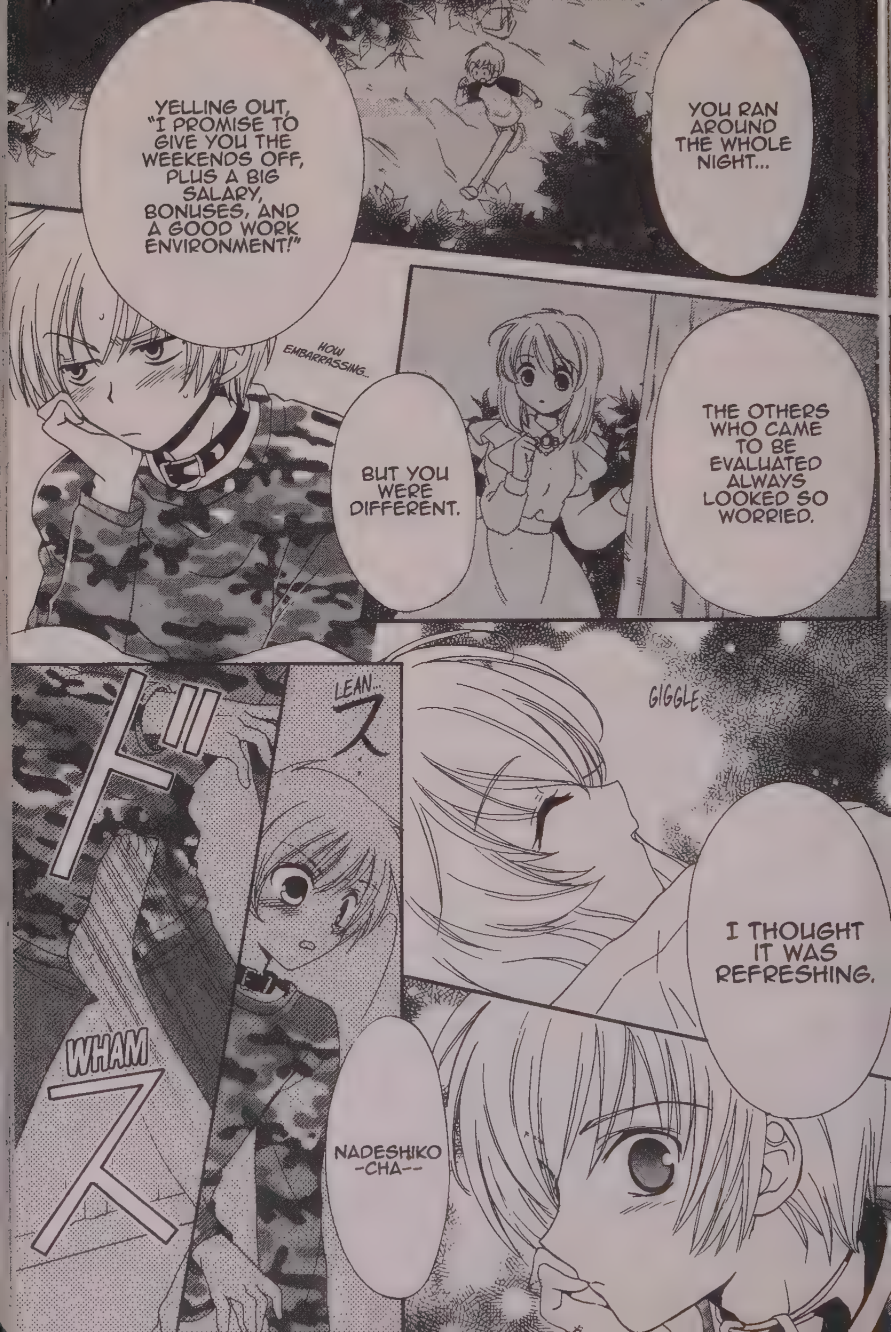


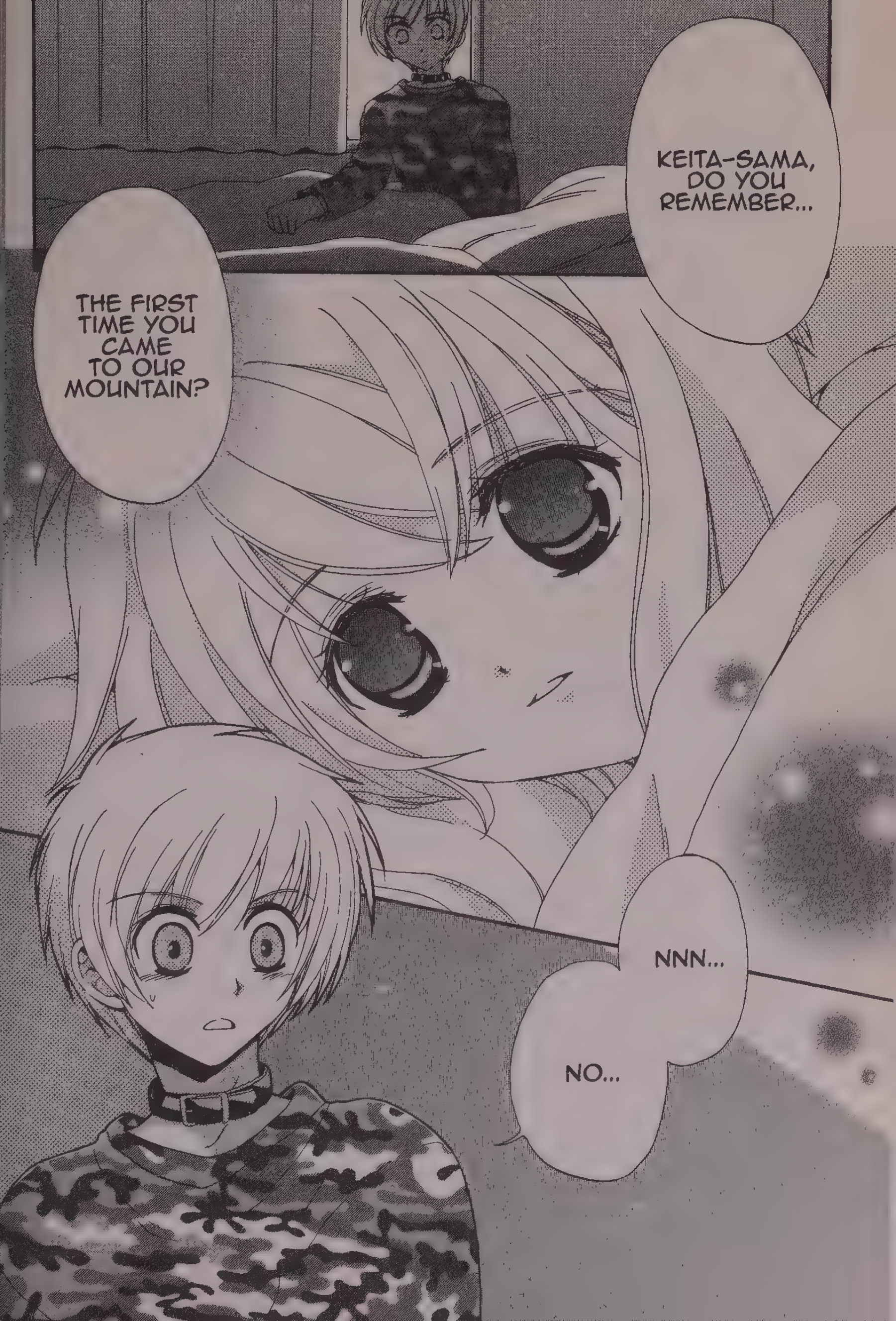
YOKO

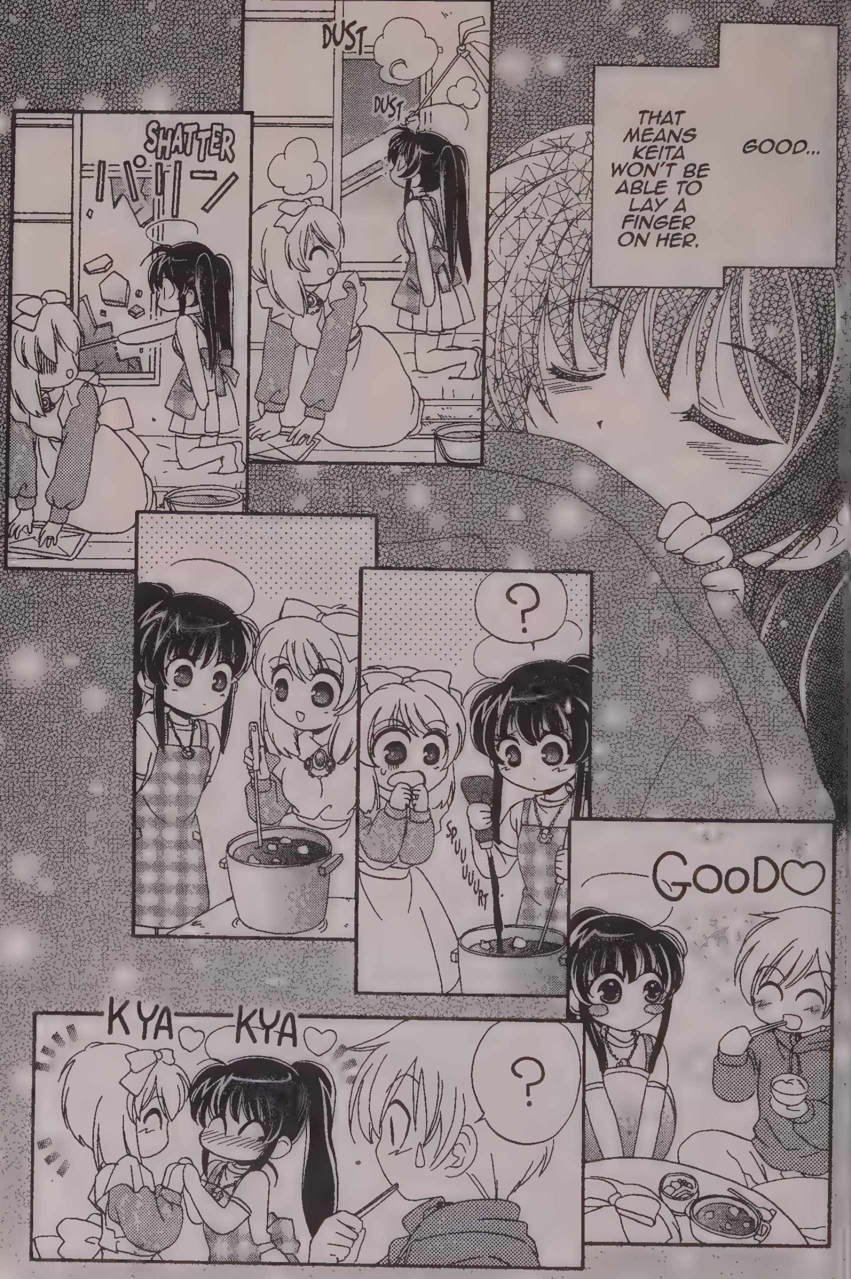
Height: 162 cm
Bust: 86 cm
Waist: 58 cm
Hip: 84 cm
Age: ??

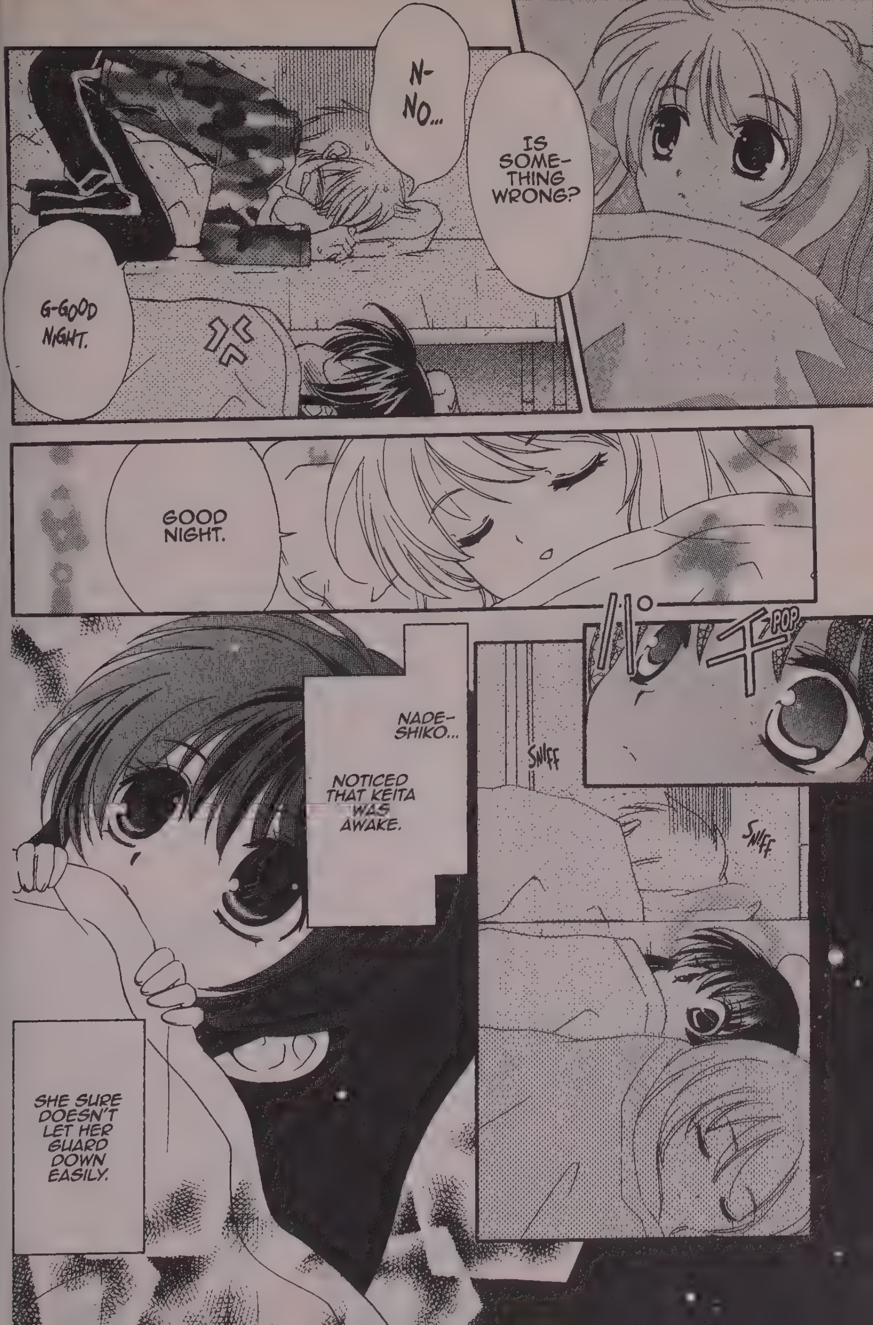

ムク
SIT UP
zzz
zzz
SNICKER
I WON.
KEITA-SAMA...?

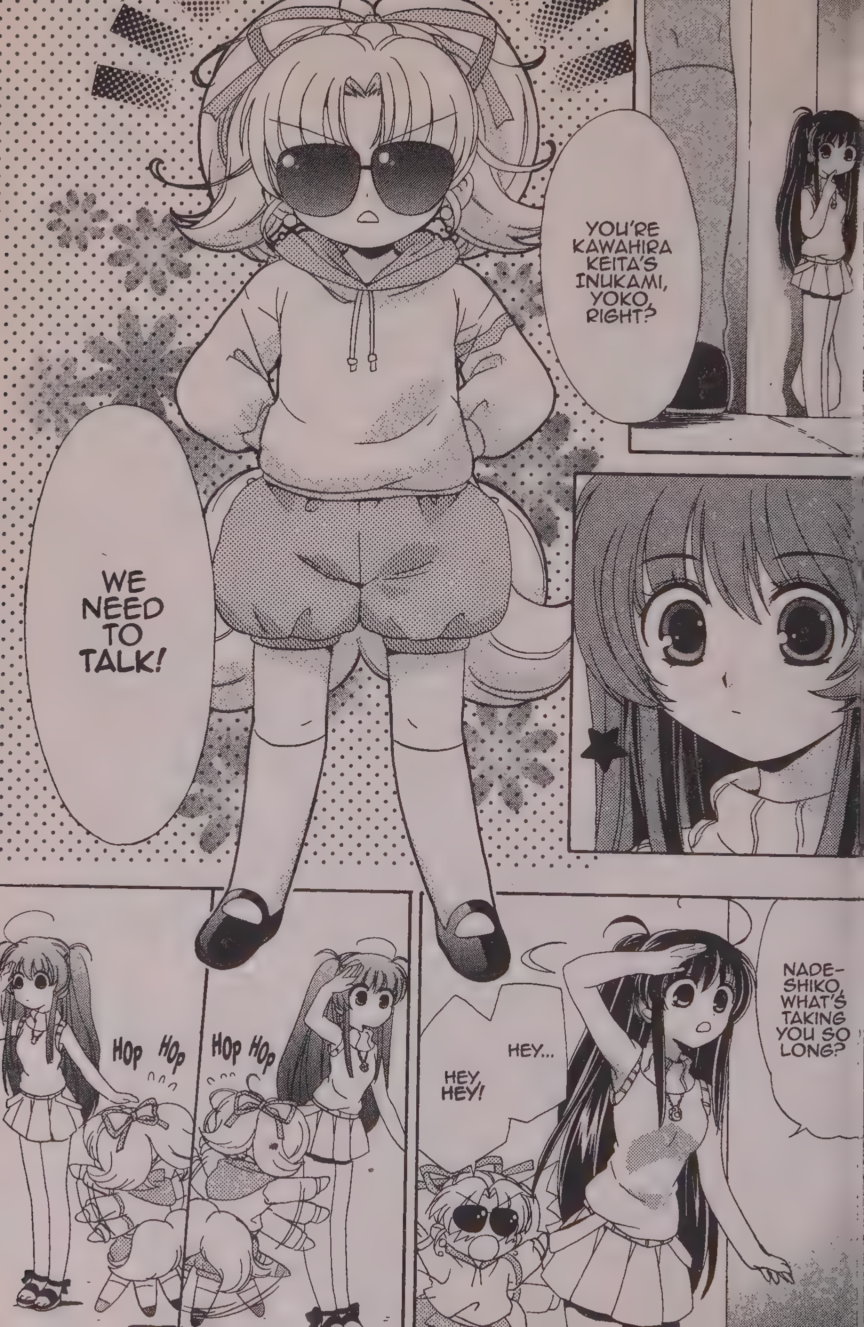

ド
THUMP
ド
BA-THUMP
ド
BA-THUMP
NADESHIKO-CHAN IS FRESH OUT OF THE BATH...
AND SHE SMELLS SOOO GOOD!!
ぐりん
ROLL
ド
BA-THUMP
ギーン
GLARE
ギーン
GLARE
ぐりん
ROLL

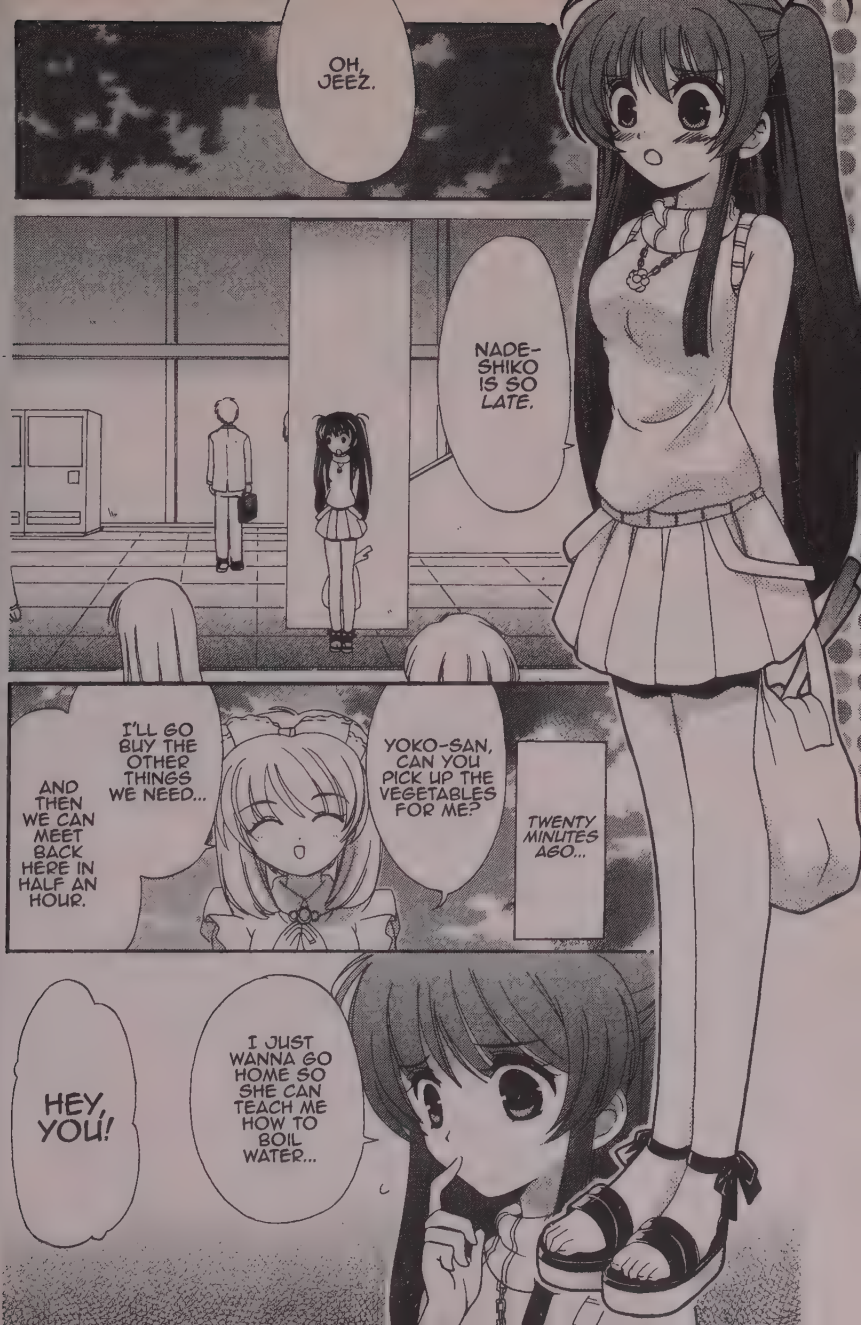

YOU RAN AROUND THE WHOLE NIGHT...
YELLING OUT, "I PROMISE TO GIVE YOU THE WEEKENDS OFF, PLUS A BIG SALARY, BONUSES, AND A GOOD WORK ENVIRONMENT!"
HOW EMBARRASSING...
THE OTHERS WHO CAME TO BE EVALUATED ALWAYS LOOKED SO WORRIED.
BUT YOU WERE DIFFERENT.
GIGGLE
I THOUGHT IT WAS REFRESHING.
NADESHIKO-CHA--
LEAN... ス
ドス
WHAM

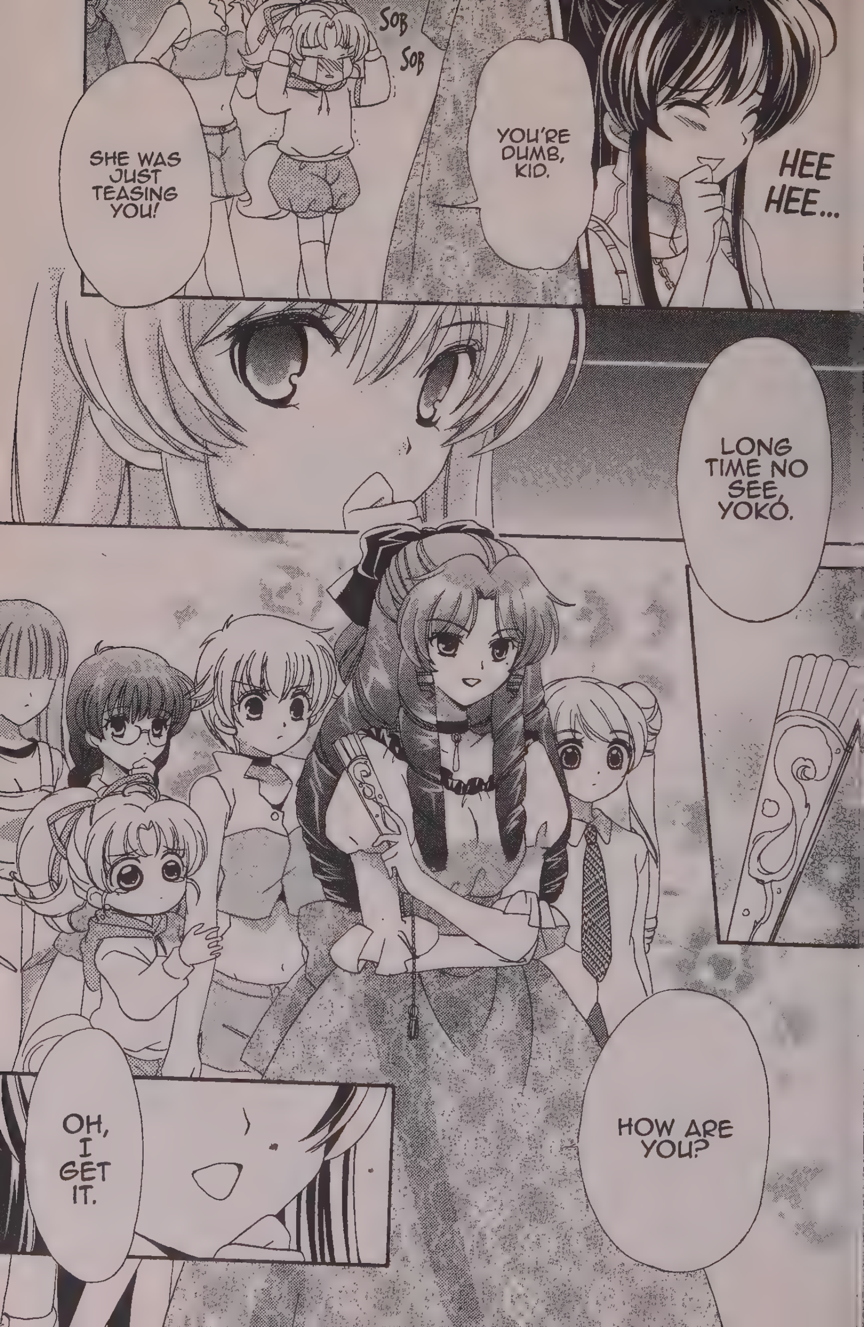

KEITA-SAMA, DO YOU REMEMBER...
THE FIRST TIME YOU CAME TO OUR MOUNTAIN?
NNN...
NO...

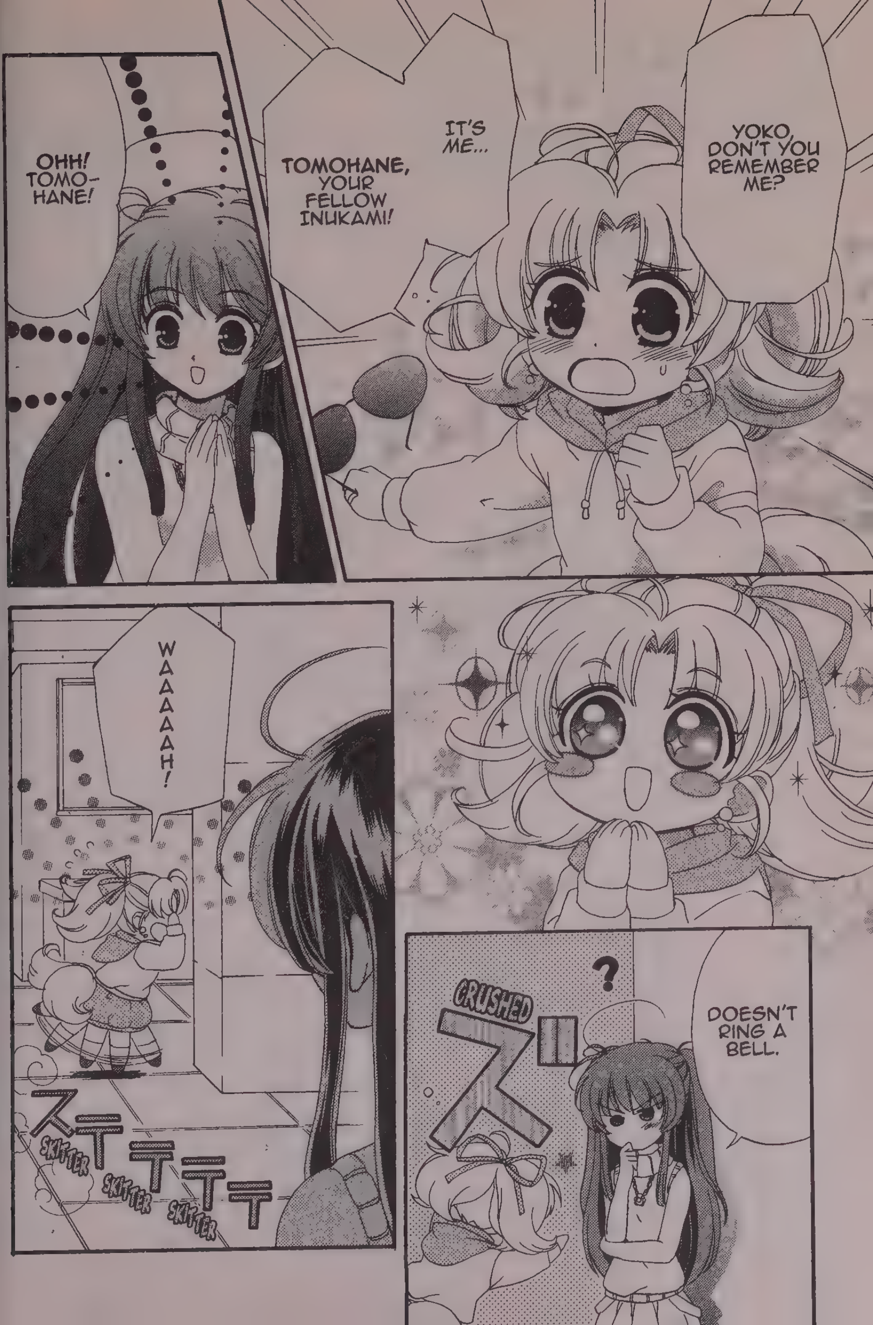

GOOD...
THAT MEANS KEITA WON'T BE ABLE TO LAY A FINGER ON HER.
DUST
DUST
SHATTER
パリーン
?
SPUUUUURT
GOOD♡
KYA♡
KYA♡
?

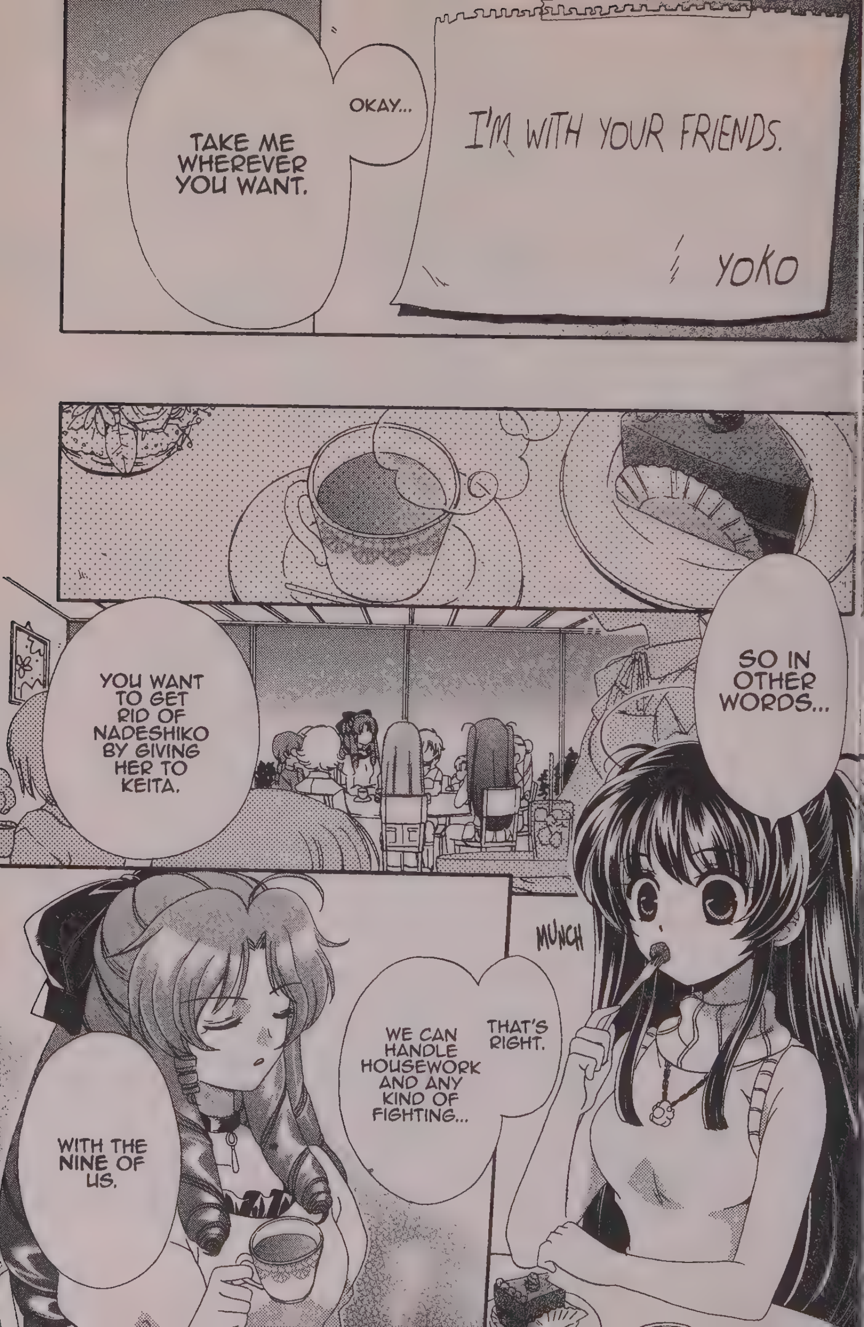

IS SOMETHING WRONG?
N-NO...
G-GOOD NIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT.
パチ POP
SNIFF
SNIFF
NADESHIKO...
NOTICED THAT KEITA WAS AWAKE.
SHE SURE DOESN'T LET HER GUARD DOWN EASILY.

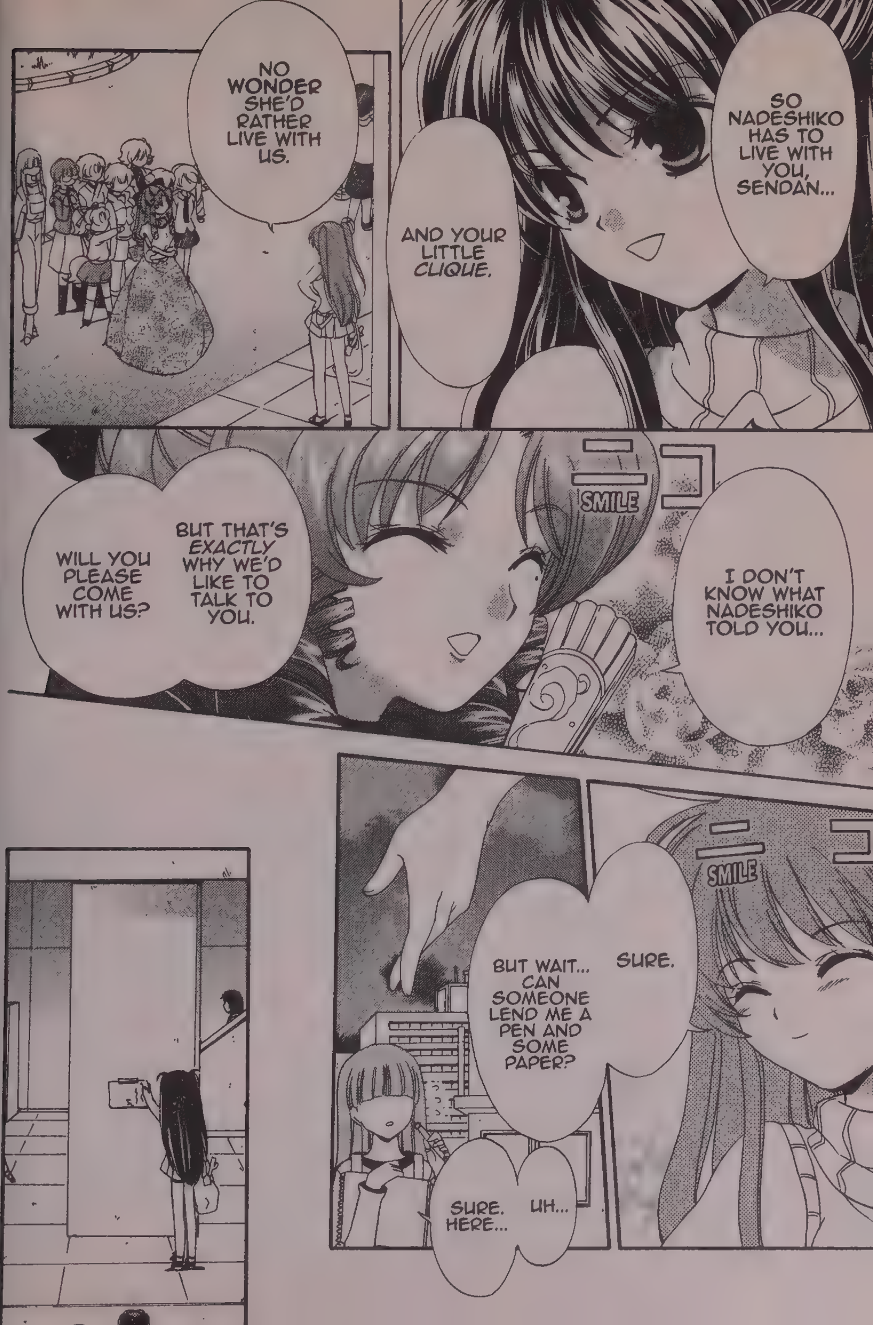

YOU'RE KAWAHIRA KEITA'S INUKAMI, YOKO, RIGHT?
WE NEED TO TALK!
NADESHIKO, WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG?
HEY...
HEY, HEY!
HOP HOP
HOP HOP

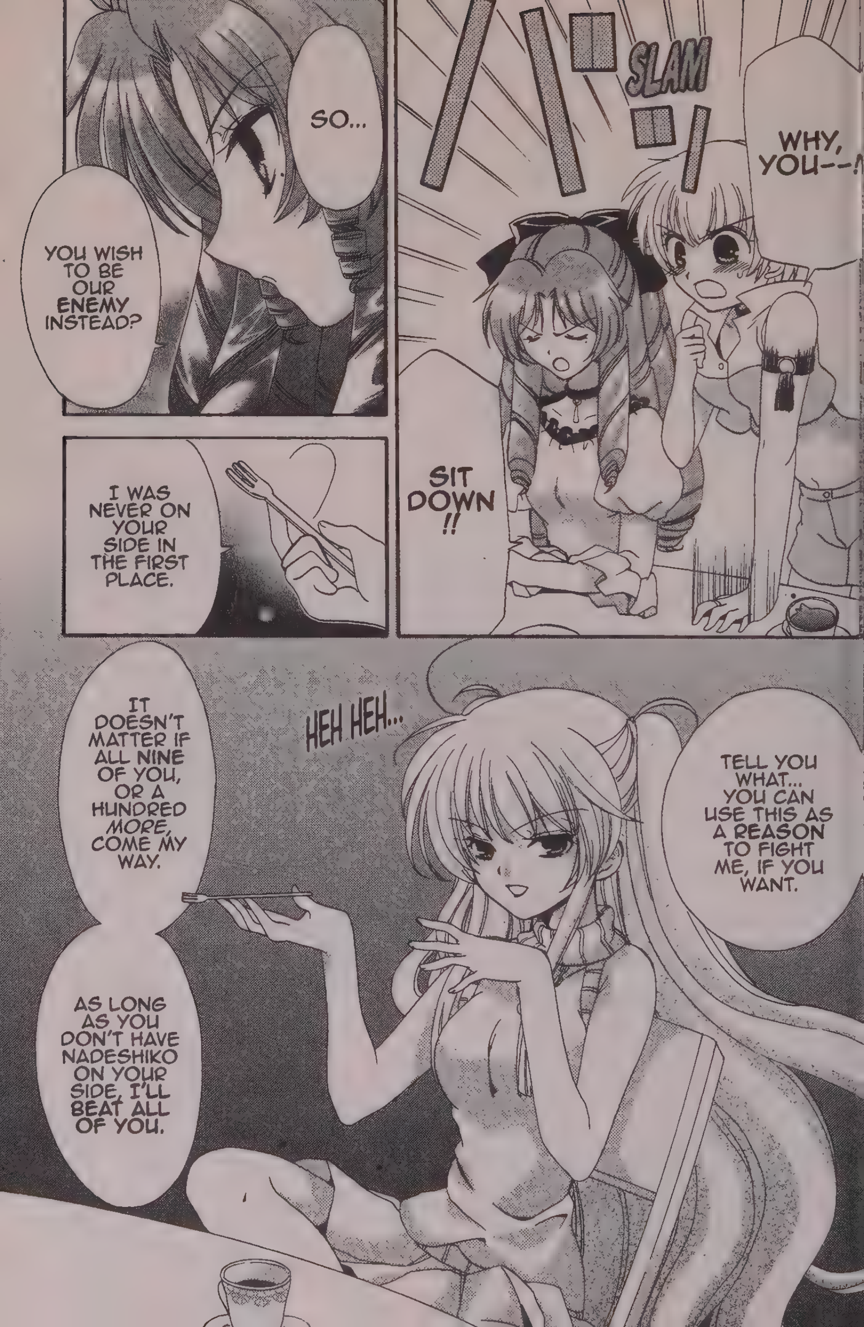

OH, JEEZ.
NADESHIKO IS SO LATE.
TWENTY MINUTES AGO...
YOKO-SAN, CAN YOU PICK UP THE VEGETABLES FOR ME?
I'LL GO BUY THE OTHER THINGS WE NEED...
AND THEN WE CAN MEET BACK HERE IN HALF AN HOUR.
I JUST WANNA GO HOME SO SHE CAN TEACH ME HOW TO BOIL WATER...
HEY, YOU!

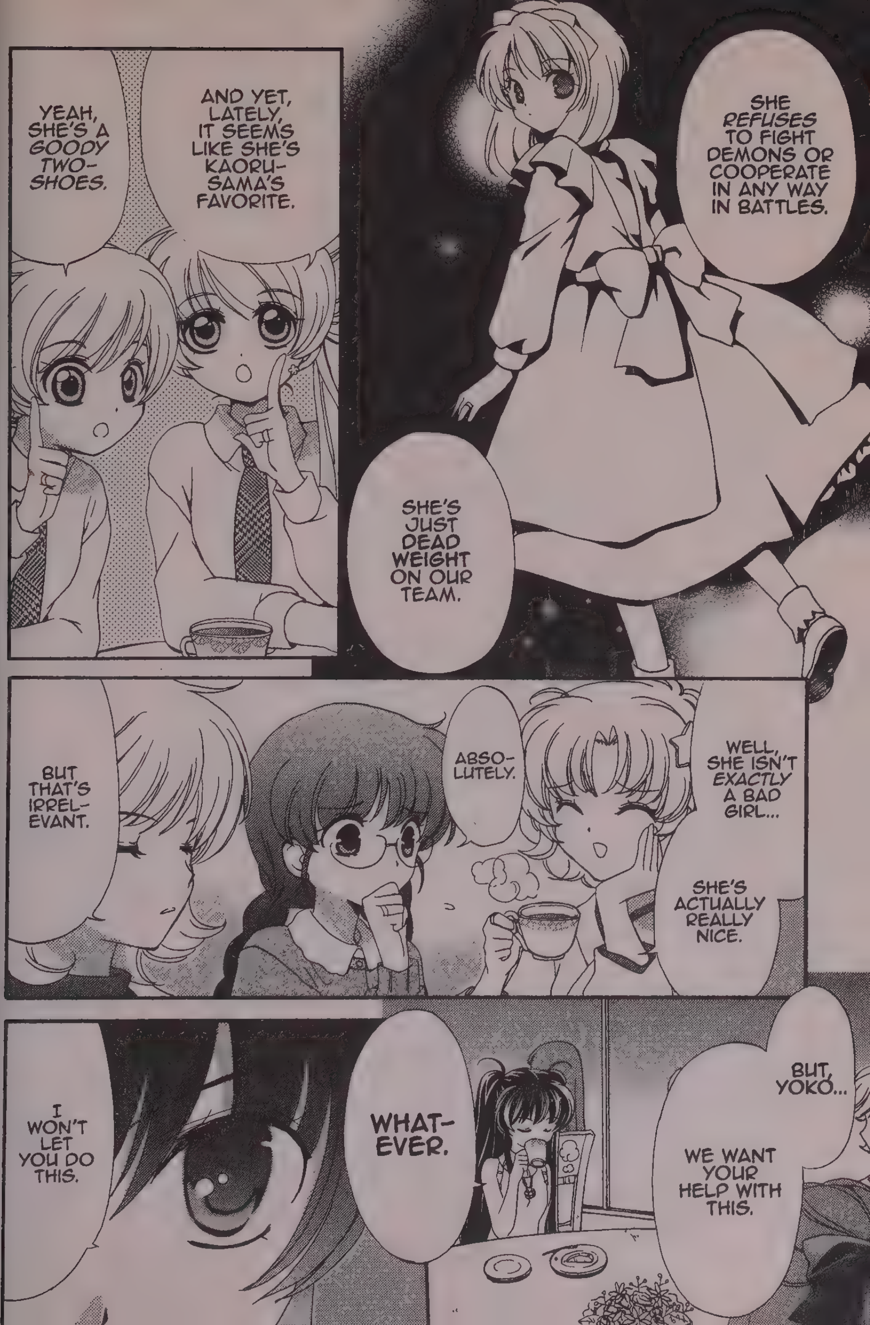

HEE HEE...
YOU'RE DUMB, KID.
SOB SOB
SHE WAS JUST TEASING YOU!
LONG TIME NO SEE, YOKO.
HOW ARE YOU?
OH, I GET IT.

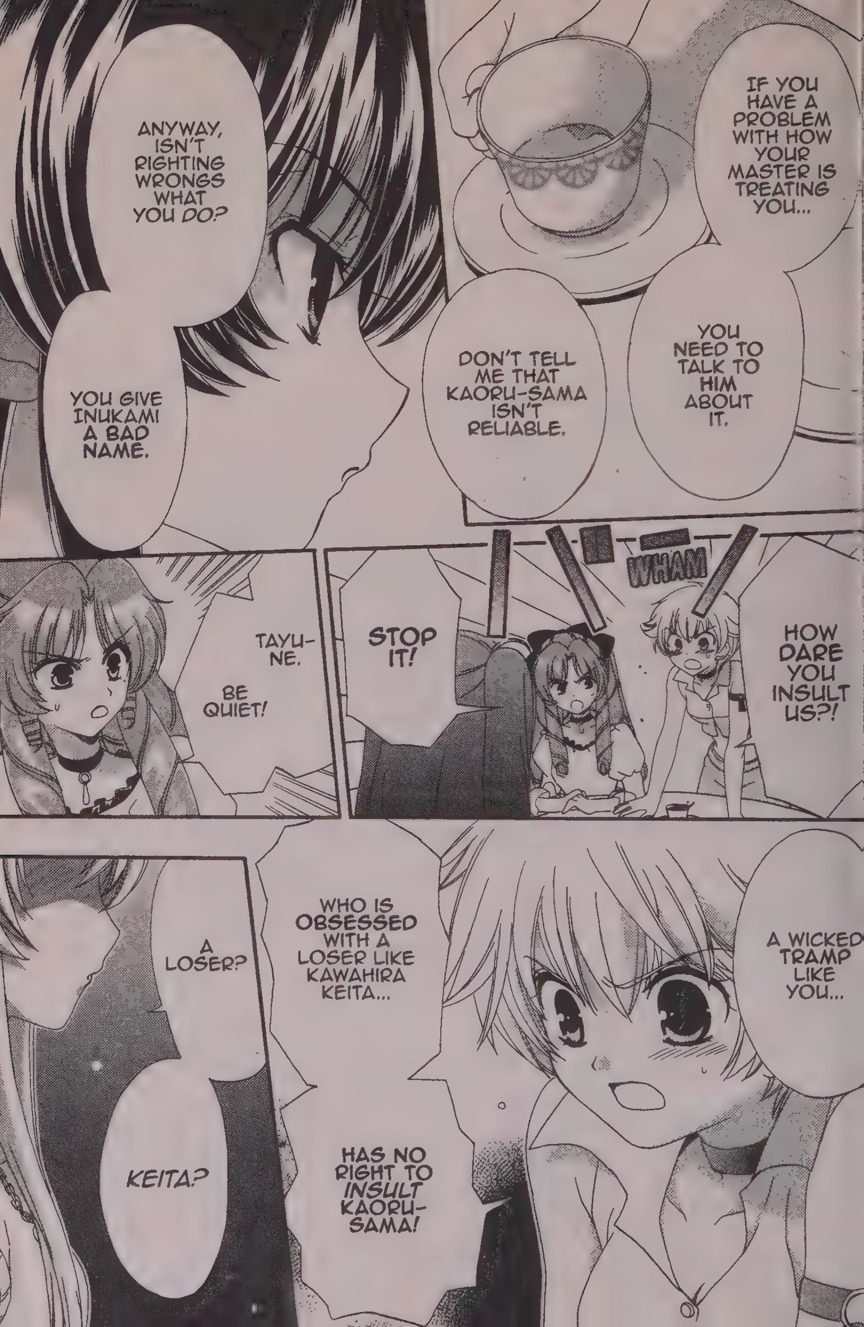

YOKO, DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME?
IT'S ME...
TOMOHANE, YOUR FELLOW INUKAMI!
OHH! TOMOHANE!
DOESN'T RING A BELL.
?
CRUSHED
ズ
WAAAAAAH!
ステテテテ
SKITTER SKITTER SKITTER

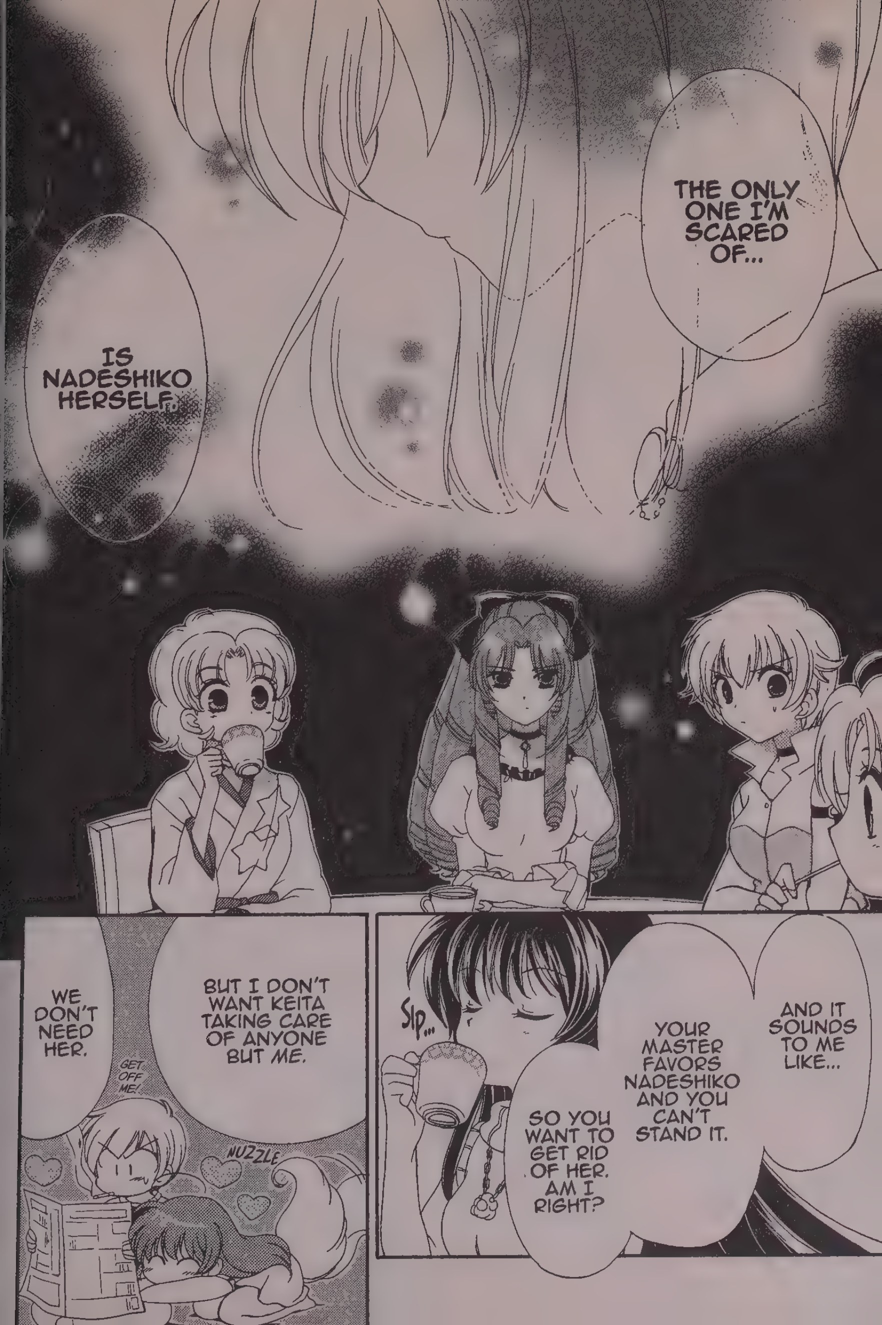

I'M WITH YOUR FRIENDS.
YOKO
OKAY...
TAKE ME WHEREVER YOU WANT.
SO IN OTHER WORDS...
YOU WANT TO GET RID OF NADESHIKO BY GIVING HER TO KEITA.
MUNCH
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE CAN HANDLE HOUSEWORK AND ANY KIND OF FIGHTING...
WITH THE NINE OF US.

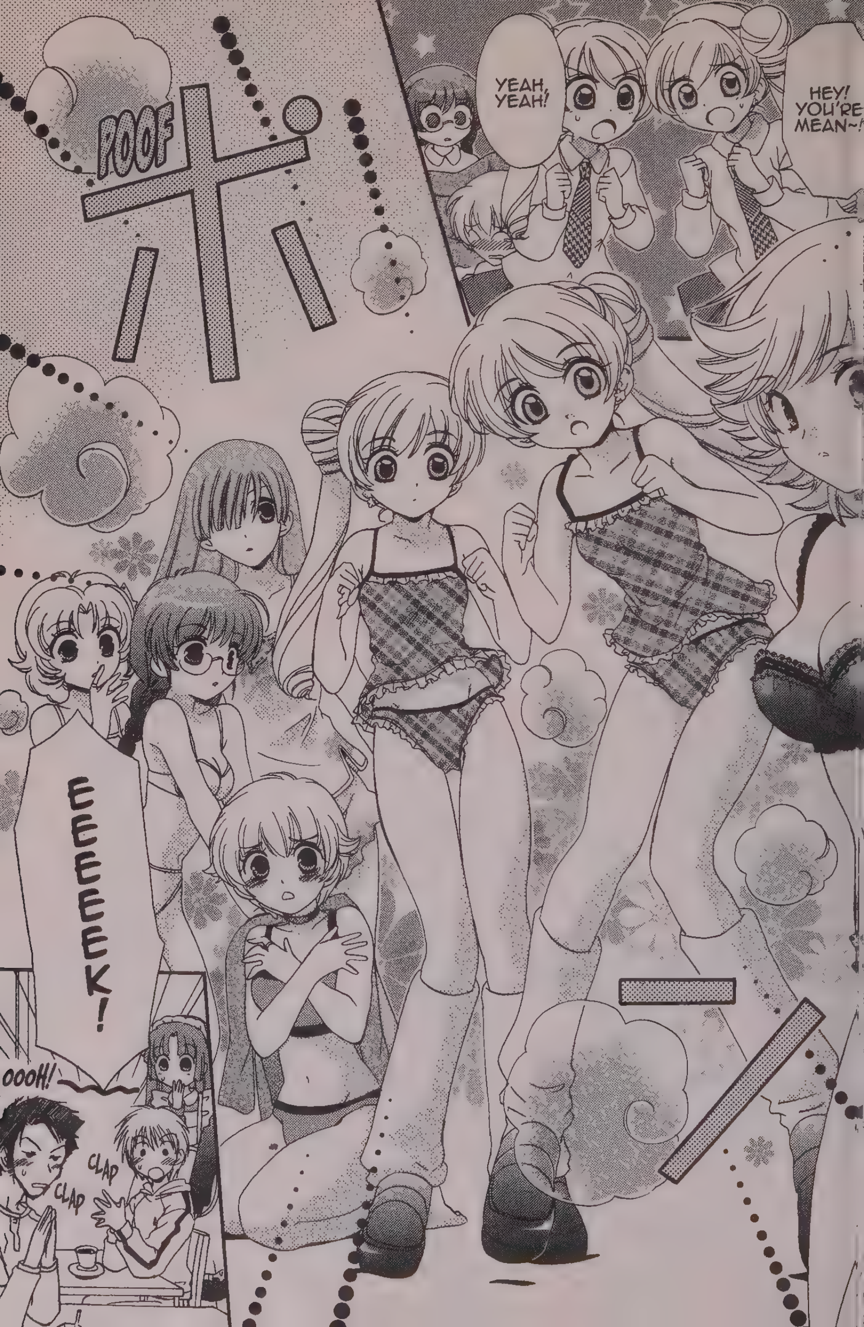

SO NADESHIKO HAS TO LIVE WITH YOU, SENDAN...
AND YOUR LITTLE *CLIQUE.*
NO WONDER SHE'D RATHER LIVE WITH US.
SMILE
I DON'T KNOW WHAT NADESHIKO TOLD YOU...
BUT THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHY WE'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU.
WILL YOU PLEASE COME WITH US?
SMILE
SURE.
BUT WAIT... CAN SOMEONE LEND ME A PEN AND SOME PAPER?
UH...
SURE. HERE...

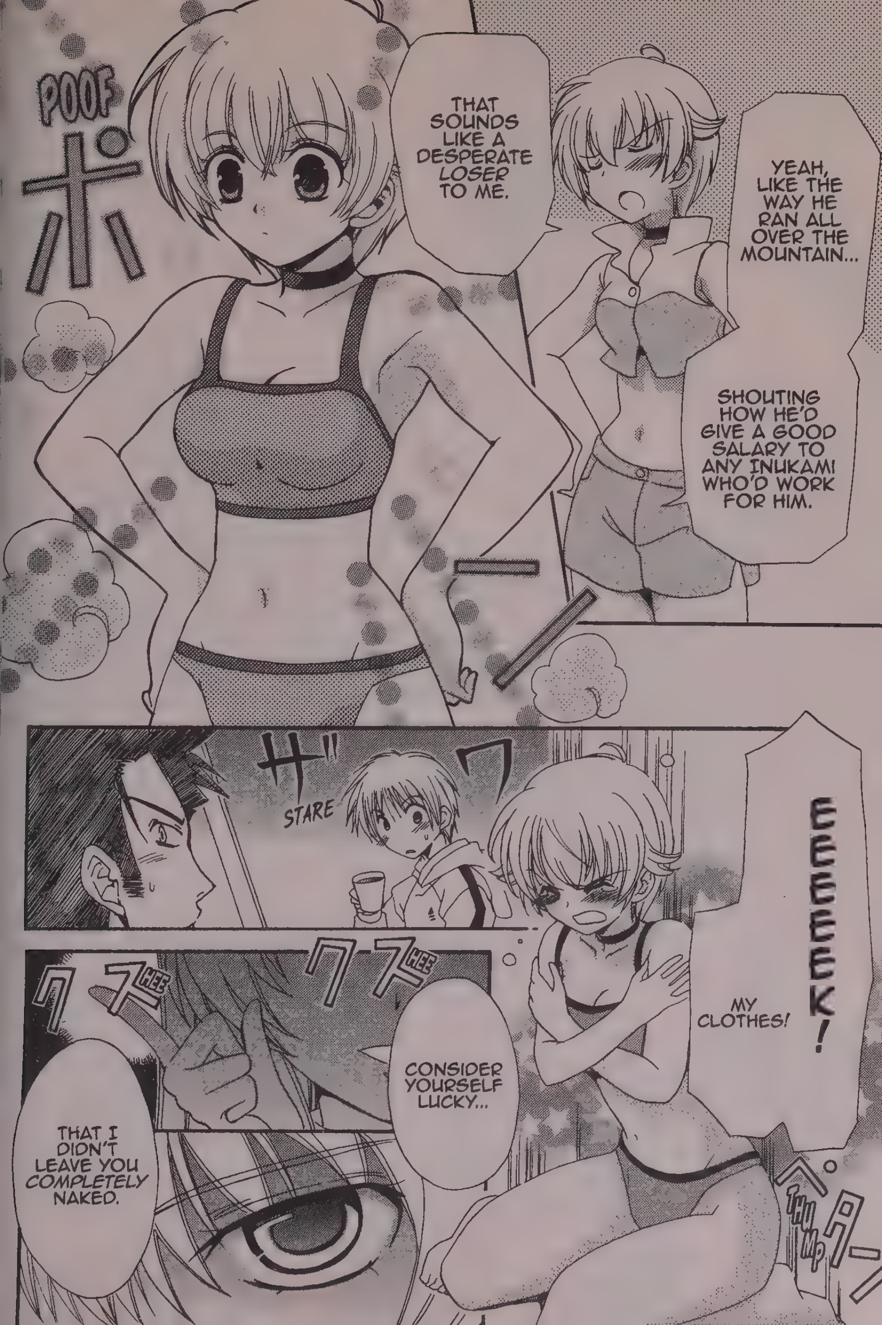

SO...
YOU WISH TO BE OUR ENEMY INSTEAD?
I WAS NEVER ON YOUR SIDE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
SLAM
WHY, YOU--!
SIT DOWN!!
HEH HEH...
TELL YOU WHAT... YOU CAN USE THIS AS A REASON TO FIGHT ME, IF YOU WANT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF ALL NINE OF YOU, OR A HUNDRED *MORE*, COME MY WAY.
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T HAVE NADESHIKO ON YOUR SIDE, I'LL BEAT ALL OF YOU.

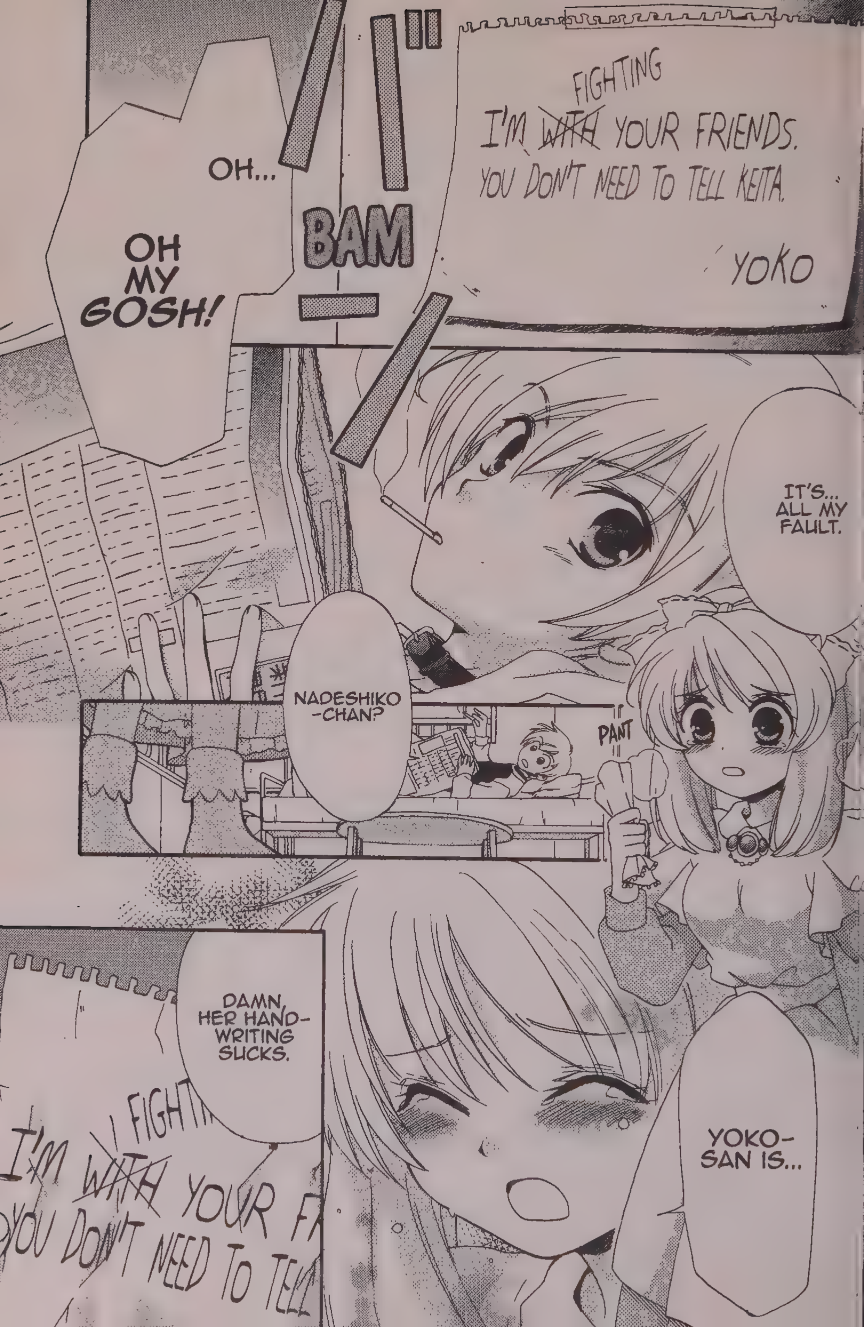

SHE *REFUSES* TO FIGHT DEMONS OR COOPERATE IN ANY WAY IN BATTLES.
SHE'S JUST DEAD WEIGHT ON OUR TEAM.
AND YET, LATELY, IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S KAORU-SAMA'S FAVORITE.
YEAH, SHE'S A *GOODY TWO-SHOES.*
WELL, SHE ISN'T *EXACTLY* A BAD GIRL...
SHE'S ACTUALLY REALLY NICE.
ABSOLUTELY.
BUT THAT'S IRRELEVANT.
BUT, YOKO...
WE WANT YOUR HELP WITH THIS.
WHATEVER.
I WON'T LET YOU DO THIS.

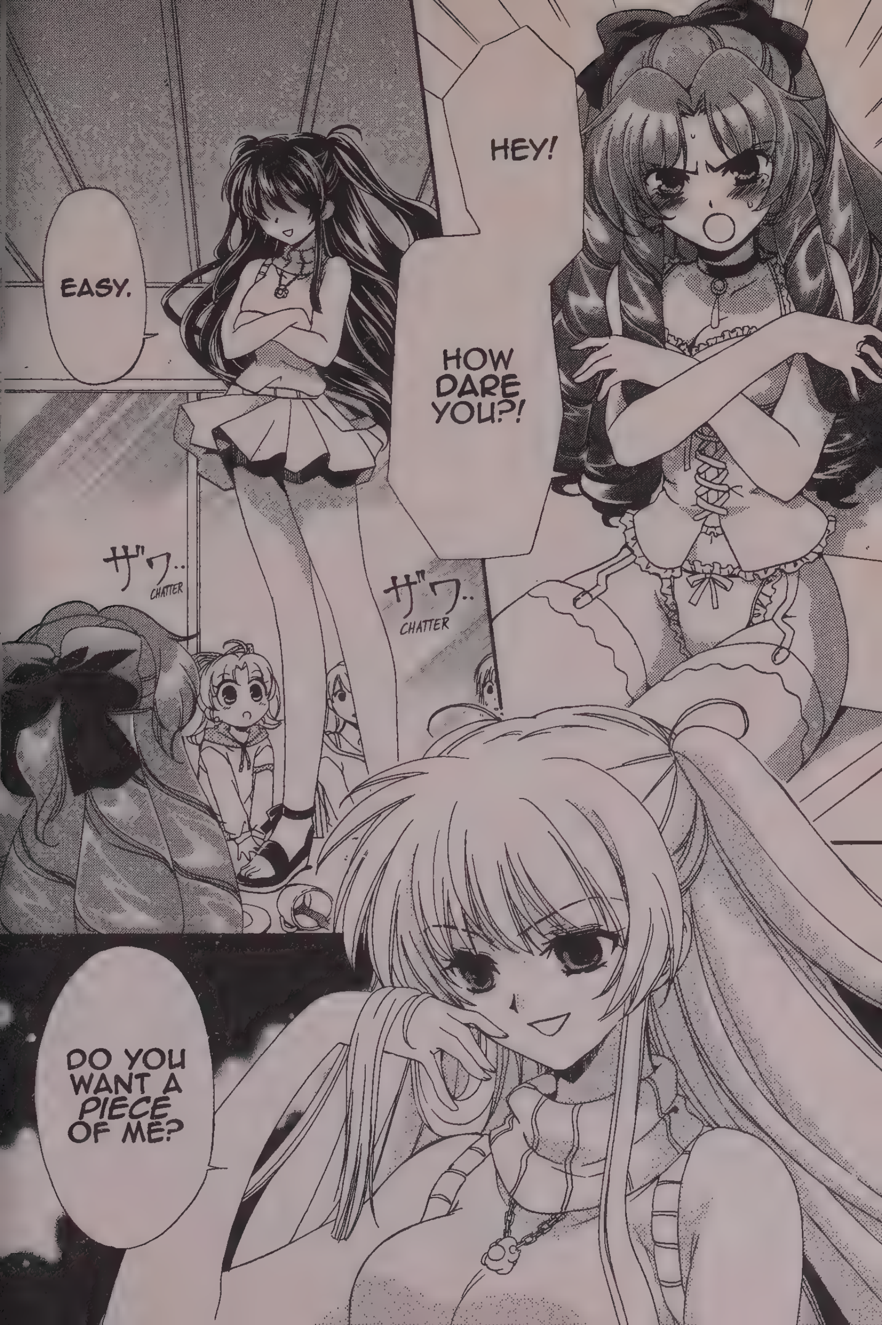

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH HOW YOUR MASTER IS TREATING YOU...
YOU NEED TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT.
DON'T TELL ME THAT KAORU-SAMA ISN'T RELIABLE.
ANYWAY, ISN'T RIGHTING WRONGS WHAT YOU *DO*?
YOU GIVE INUKAMI A BAD NAME.
WHAM
HOW DARE YOU INSULT US?!
STOP IT!
TAYU-NE.
BE QUIET!
A WICKED TRAMP LIKE YOU...
WHO IS OBSESSED WITH A LOSER LIKE KAWAHIRA KEITA...
HAS NO RIGHT TO *INSULT* KAORU-SAMA!
A LOSER?
KEITA?

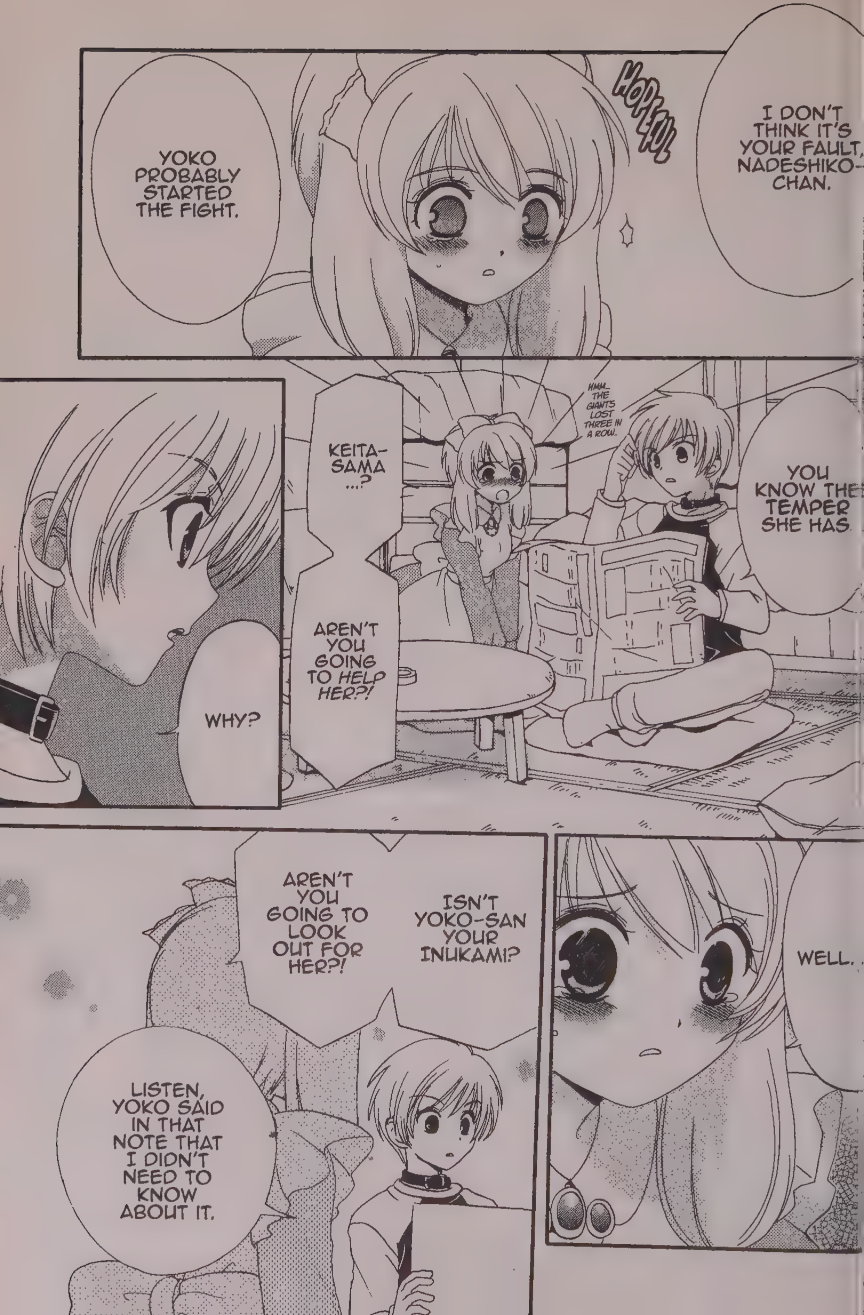

THE ONLY ONE I'M SCARED OF...
IS NADESHIKO HERSELF.
AND IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE...
YOUR MASTER FAVORS NADESHIKO AND YOU CAN'T STAND IT.
SO YOU WANT TO GET RID OF HER. AM I RIGHT?
SIP...
BUT I DON'T WANT KEITA TAKING CARE OF ANYONE BUT ME.
WE DON'T NEED HER.
GET OFF ME!
NUZZLE

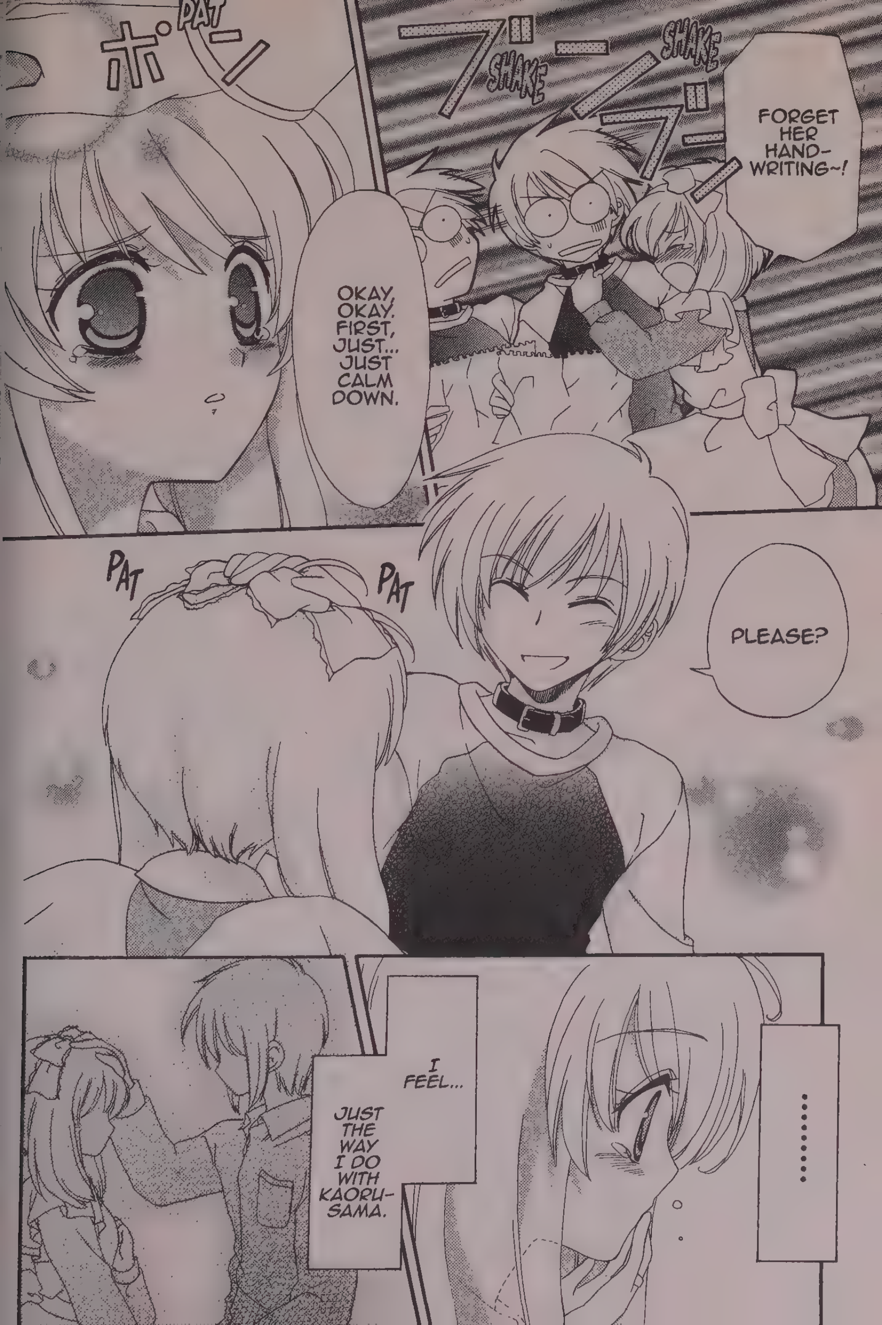

HEY! YOU'RE MEAN~!
YEAH, YEAH!
POOF
ポン
EEEEEEK!
OOOH!
CLAP
CLAP

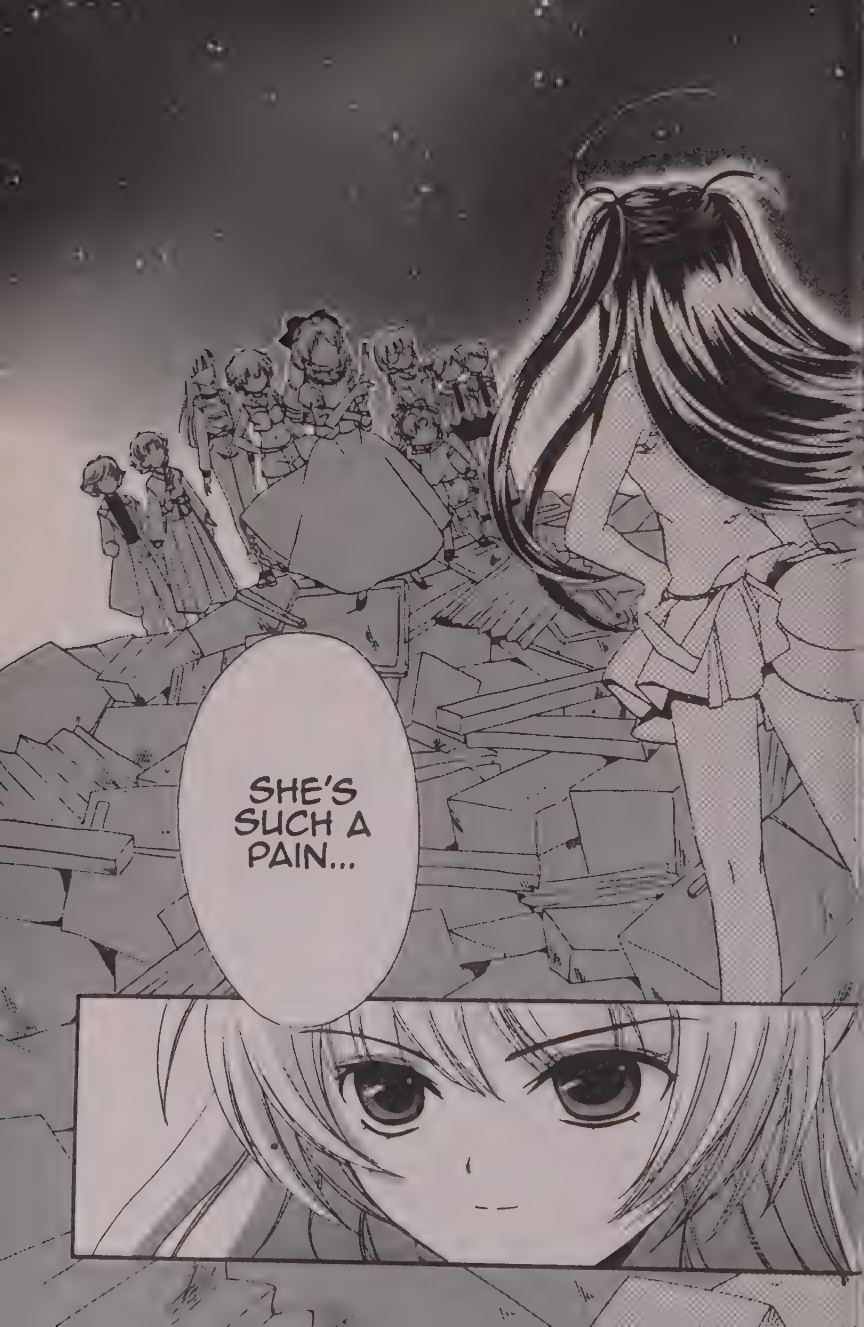

YEAH, LIKE THE WAY HE RAN ALL OVER THE MOUNTAIN...
SHOUTING HOW HE'D GIVE A GOOD SALARY TO ANY INUKAMI WHO'D WORK FOR HIM.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A DESPERATE LOSER TO ME.
POOF
ポ
EEEEEEEEK!
MY CLOTHES!
サワ
STARE
CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY...
THAT I DIDN'T LEAVE YOU COMPLETELY NAKED.
クス HEE
クス HEE
ペタ―
THUMP


I'M ~~WITH~~ FIGHTING YOUR FRIENDS.
YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL KEITA.
YOKO
BAM
OH...
OH MY GOSH!
IT'S... ALL MY FAULT.
PANT
NADESHIKO-CHAN?
YOKO-SAN IS...
DAMN, HER HANDWRITING SUCKS.
I'M ~~WITH~~ FIGHTI YOUR F
YOU DON'T NEED TO TEL

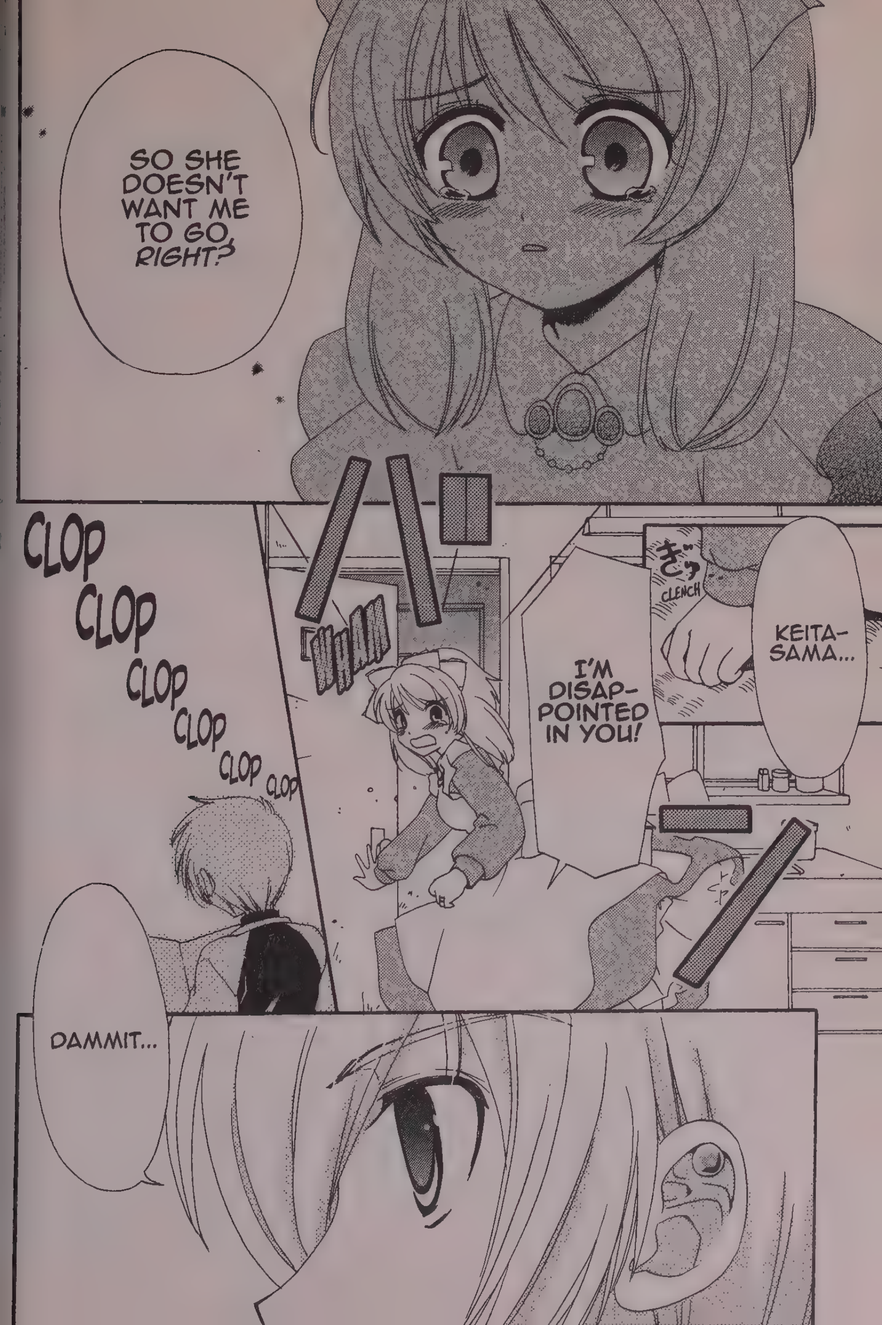

HEY!
HOW DARE YOU?!
EASY.
ザワ.. CHATTER
ザワ.. CHATTER
DO YOU WANT A *PIECE* OF ME?

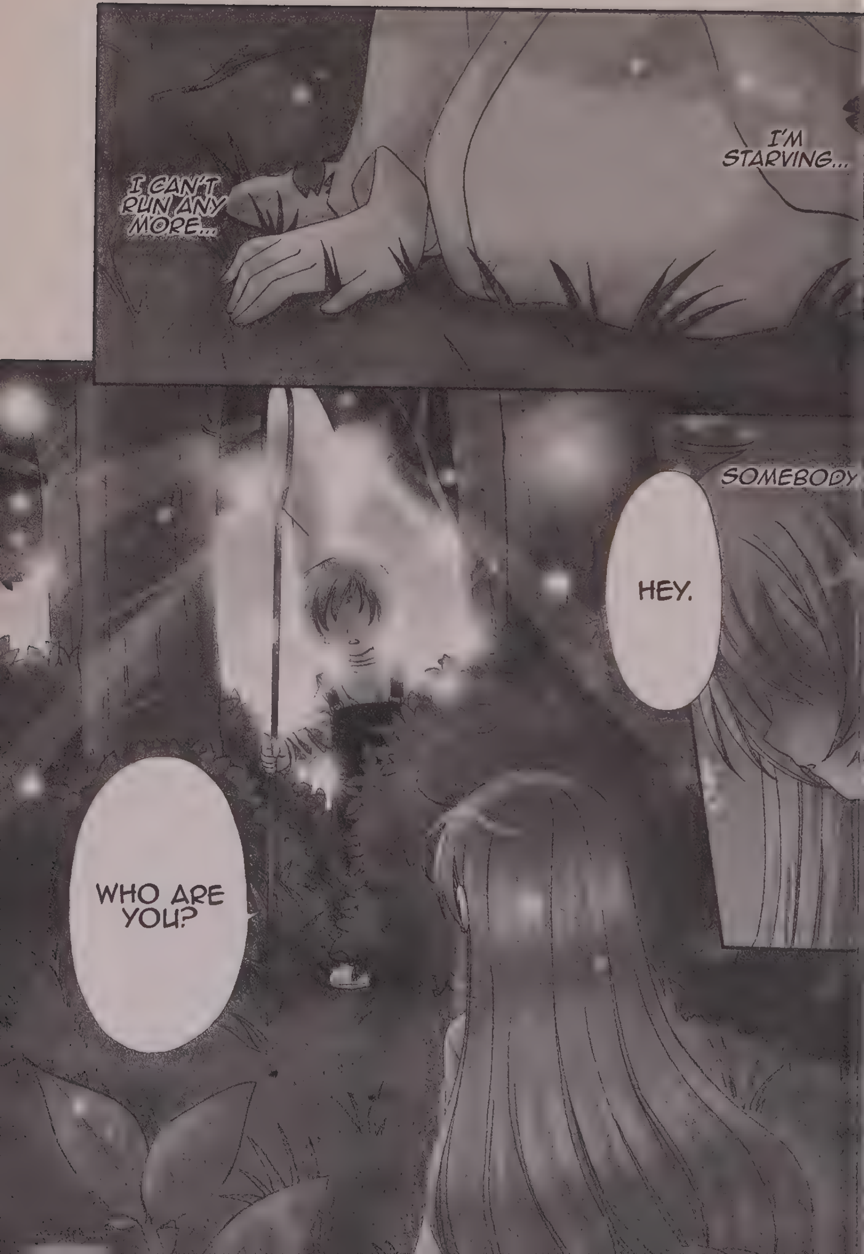

I DON'T THINK IT'S YOUR FAULT, NADESHIKO-CHAN.
HOPEFUL
YOKO PROBABLY STARTED THE FIGHT.
YOU KNOW THE TEMPER SHE HAS.
HMM... THE GIANTS LOST THREE IN A ROW...
KEITA-SAMA...?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO *HELP* HER?!
WHY?
WELL...
ISN'T YOKO-SAN YOUR INUKAMI?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO LOOK OUT FOR HER?!
LISTEN, YOKO SAID IN THAT NOTE THAT I DIDN'T NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IT.

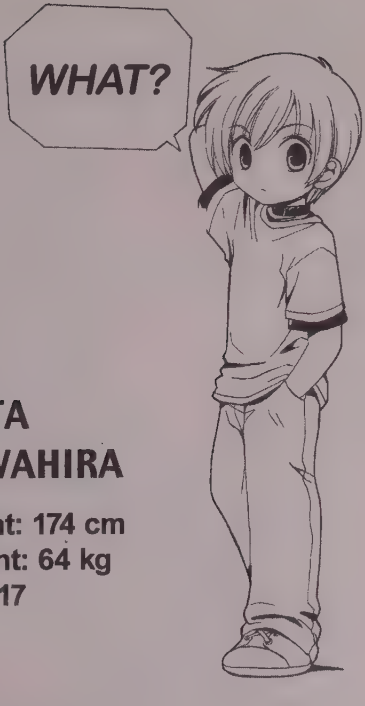

FORGET HER HAND-WRITING~!
ブーー
SHAKE
ブーー
SHAKE
OKAY, OKAY. FIRST, JUST... JUST CALM DOWN.
ポーン
PAT
PLEASE?
PAT
PAT
....
I FEEL...
JUST THE WAY I DO WITH KAORU-SAMA.



SHE'S SUCH A PAIN...


SO SHE DOESN'T WANT ME TO GO, RIGHT?
ぎゅ CLENCH
KEITA-SAMA...
I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU!
CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP
DAMMIT...

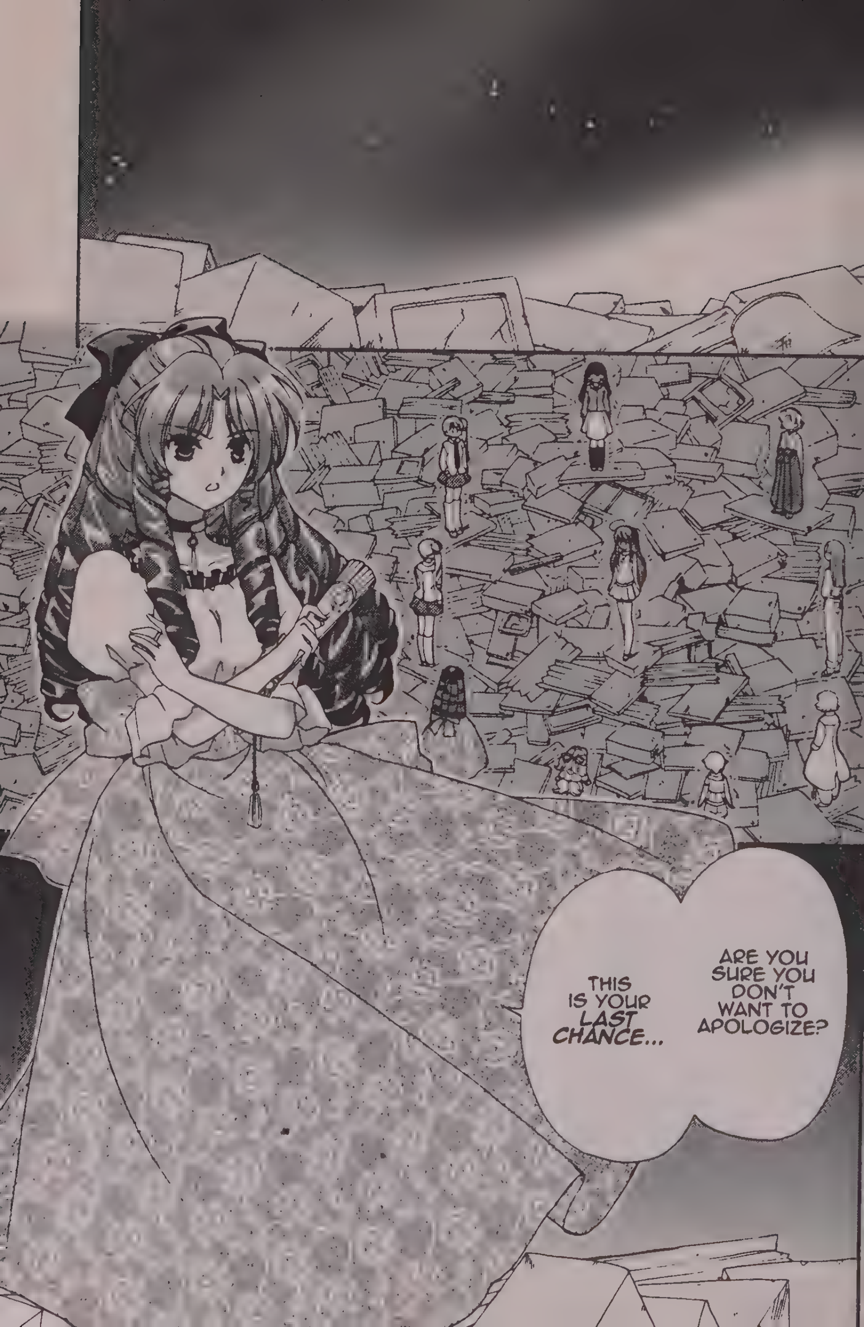

I'M STARVING...
I CAN'T RUN ANY MORE...
SOMEBODY
HEY.
WHO ARE YOU?

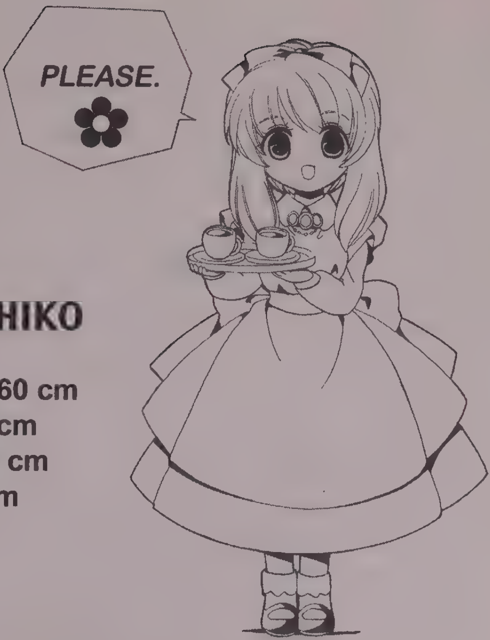


KEITA KAWAHIRA

Height: 174 cm
Weight: 64 kg
Age: 17

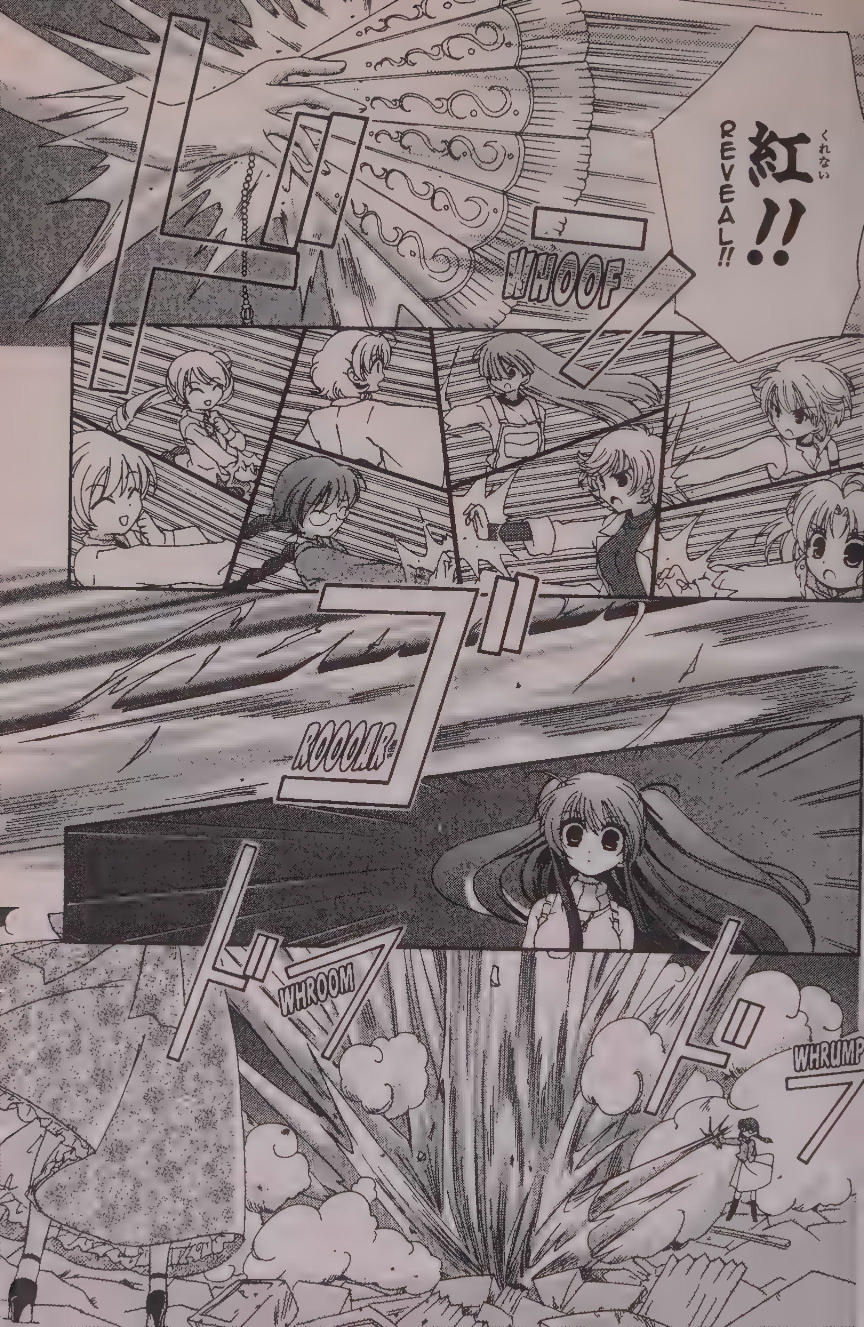
Step.7 Enter Nadeshiko: Part 3

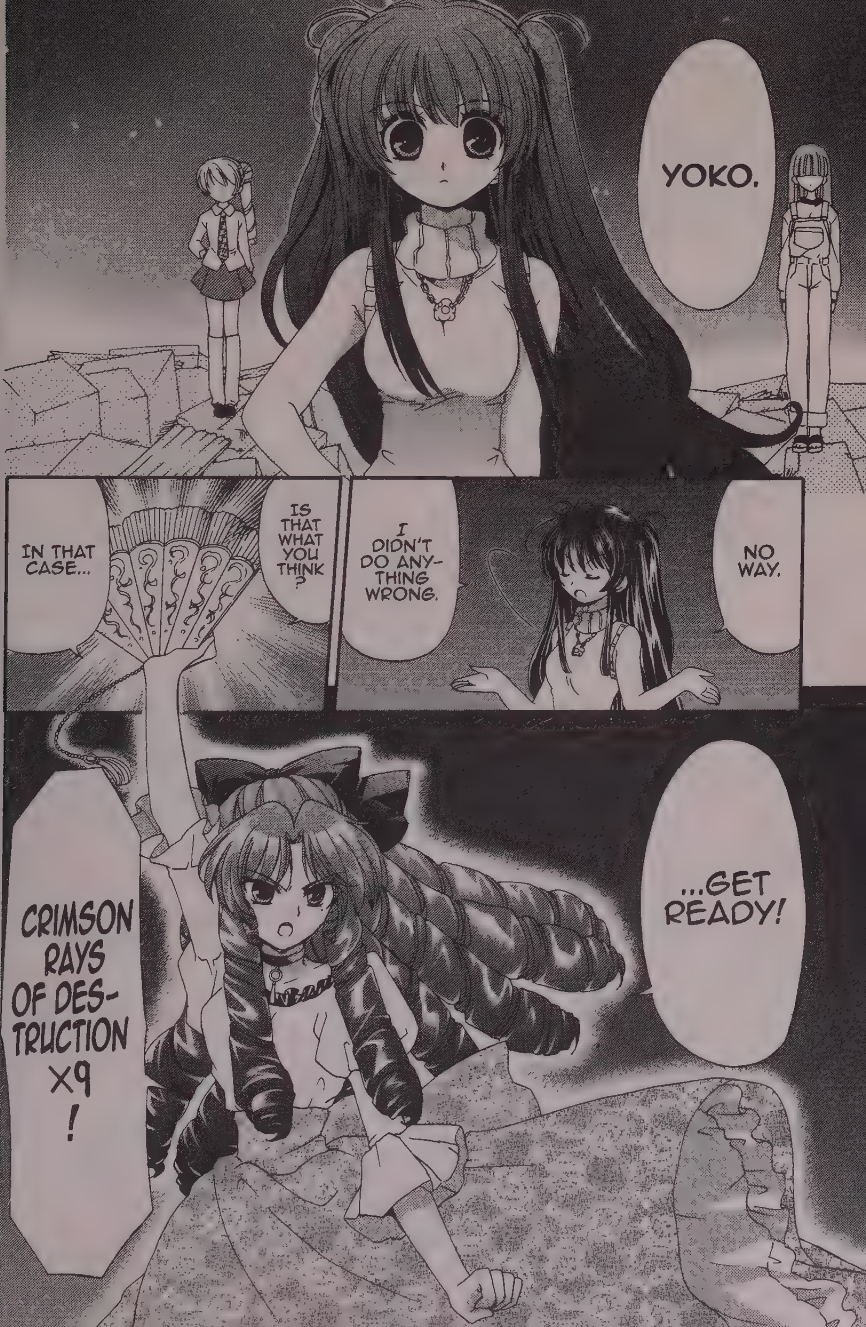

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO APOLOGIZE?
THIS IS YOUR *LAST CHANCE...*

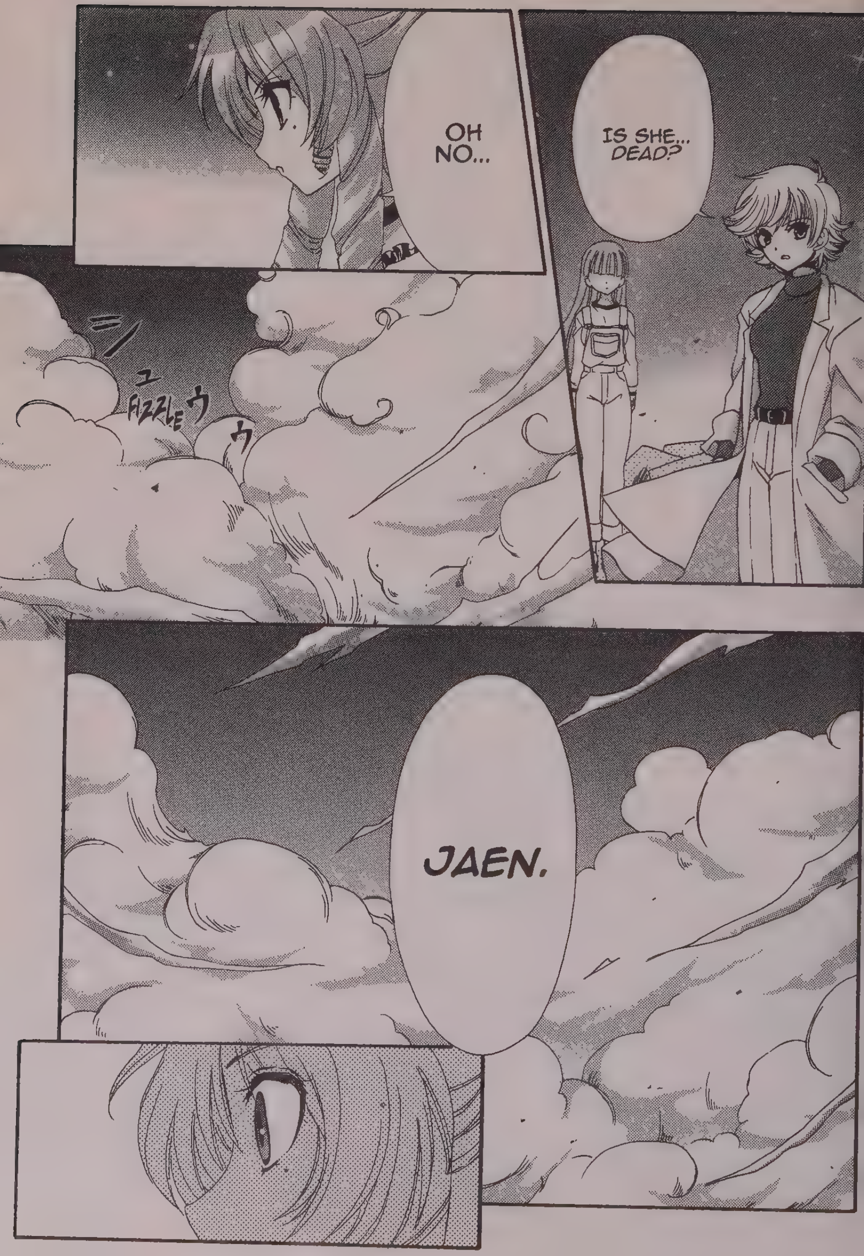


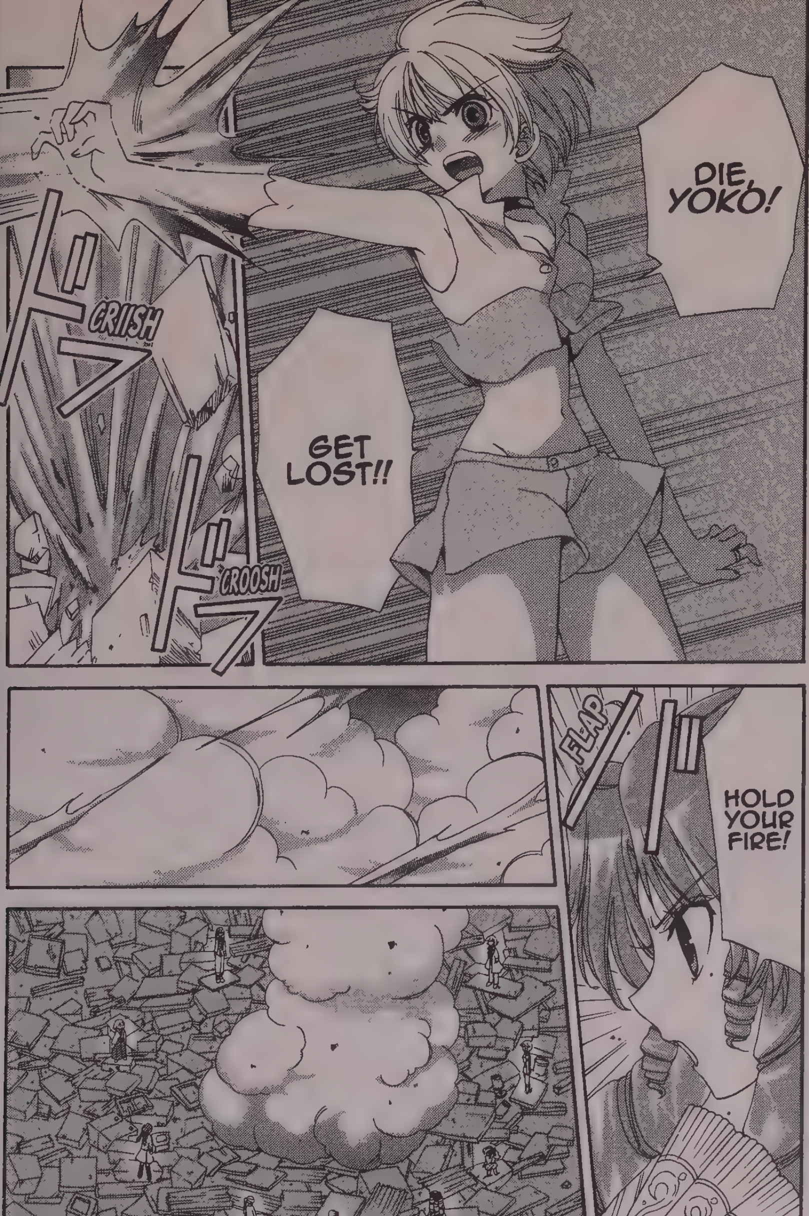
NADESHIKO

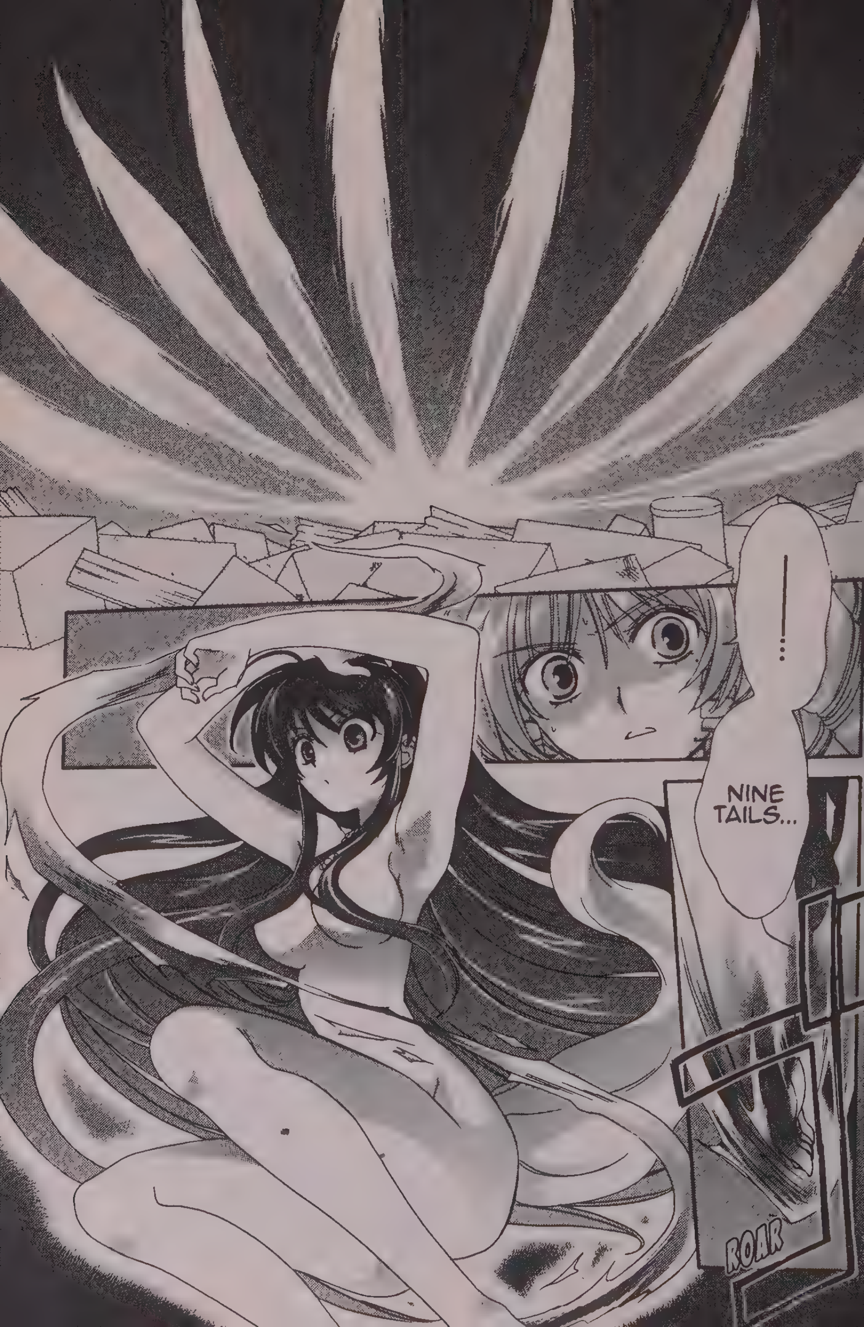
Height: 160 cm
Bust: 92 cm
Waist: 61 cm
Hip: 88 cm
Age: ??

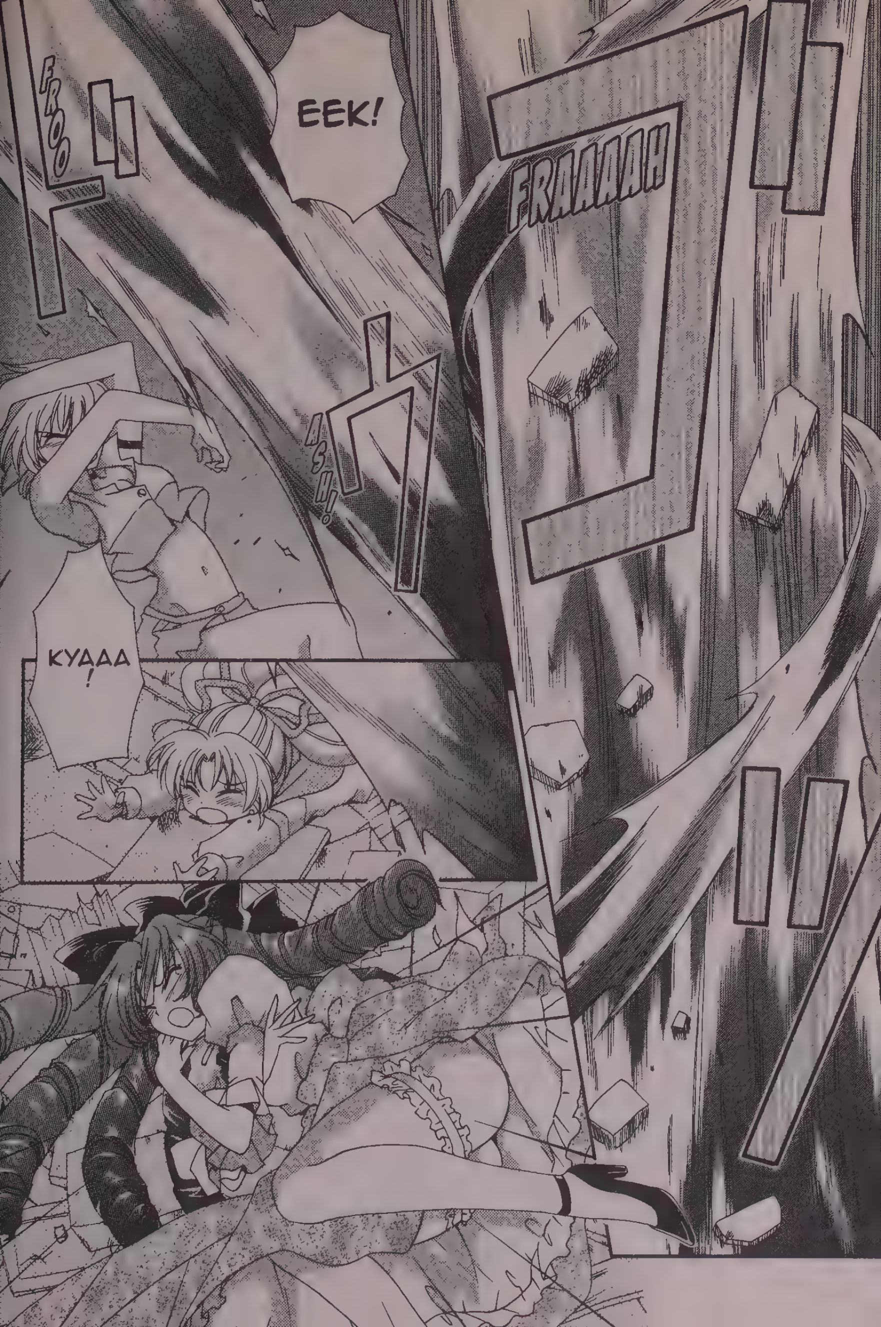

紅（くれない）!!
REVEAL!!
ドッ
WHOOF
ゴッ
ROOOAR
ドッ
WHRUMP
ドッ
WHROOM

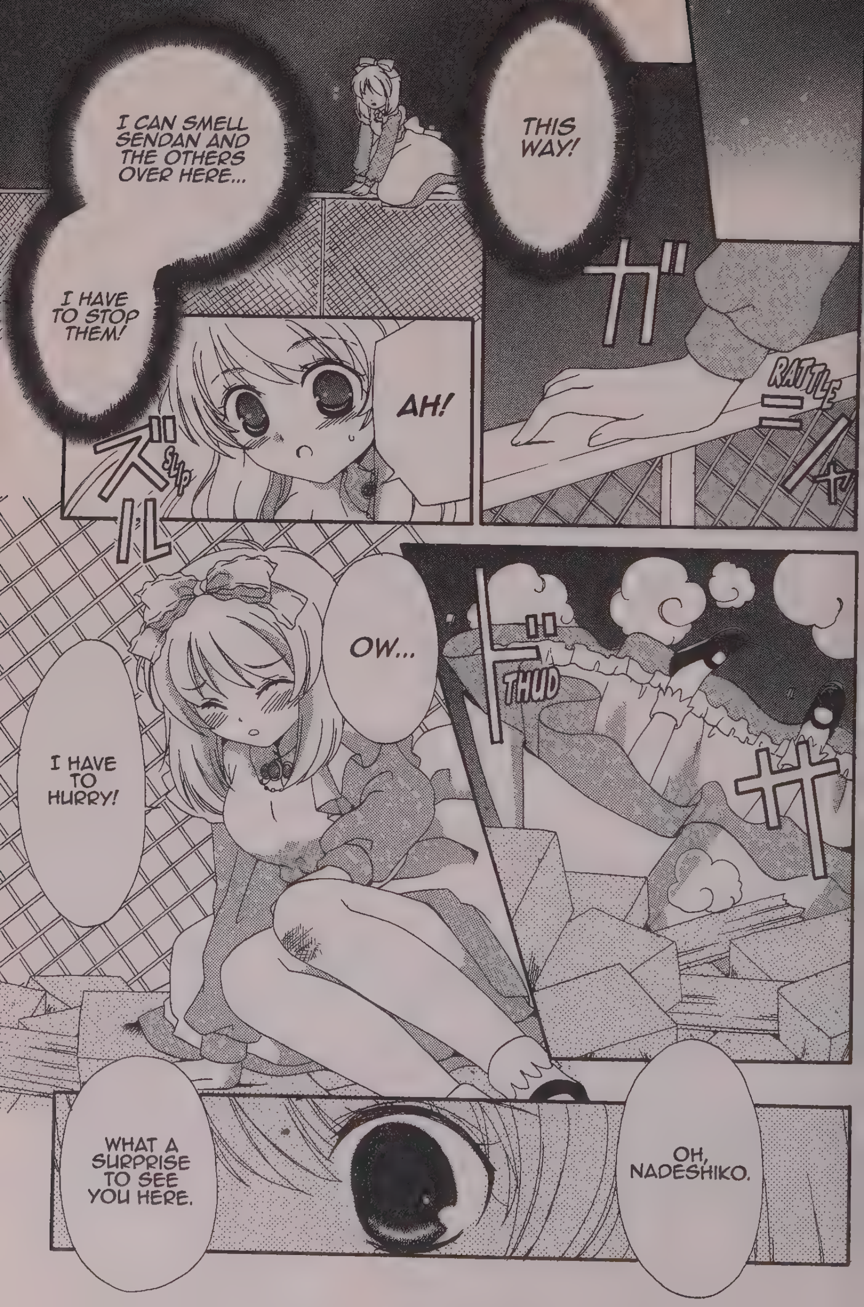

YOKO.
NO WAY.
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK?
IN THAT CASE...
...GET READY!
CRIMSON RAYS OF DESTRUCTION X9!

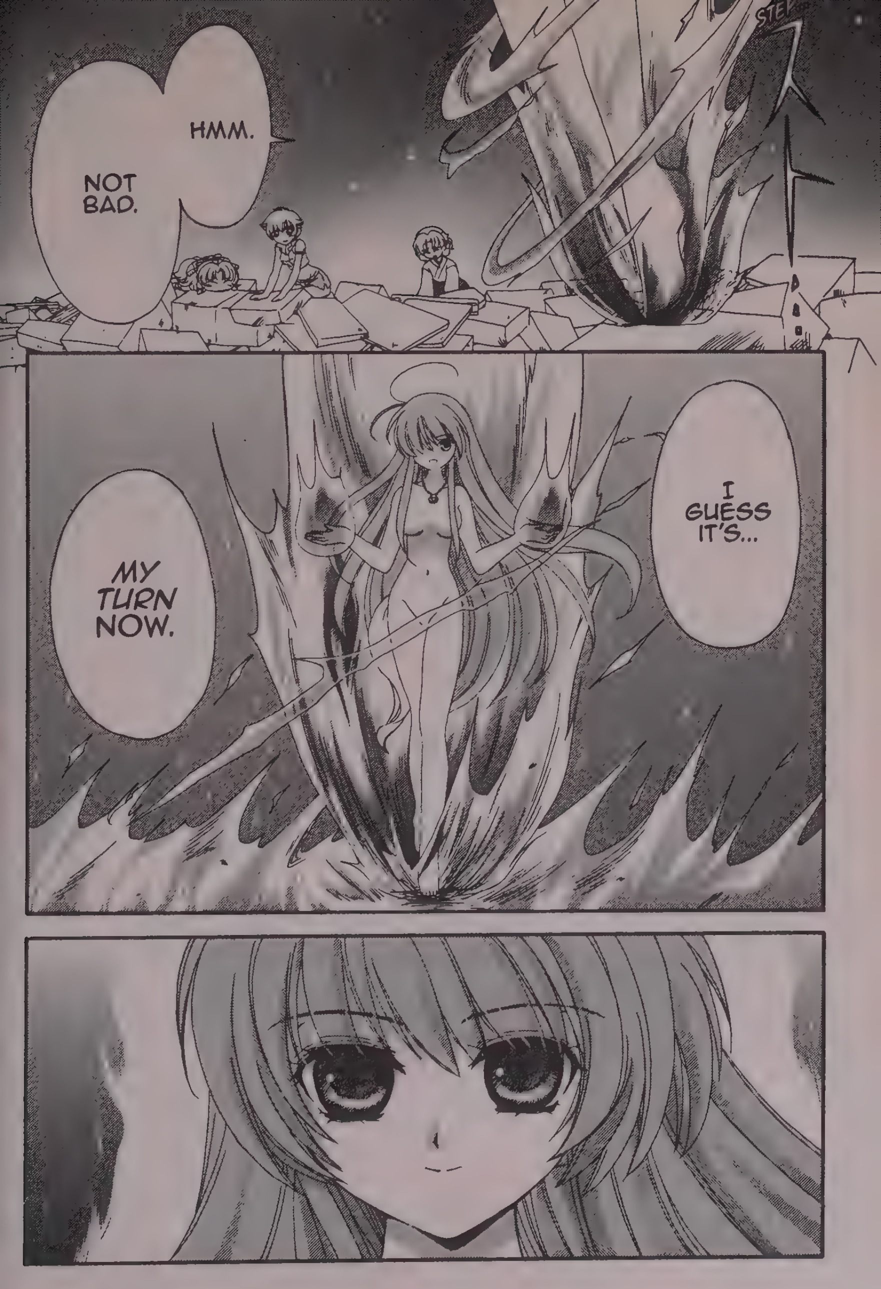

IS SHE... DEAD?
OH NO...
シュウウ
FIZZLE
JAEN.

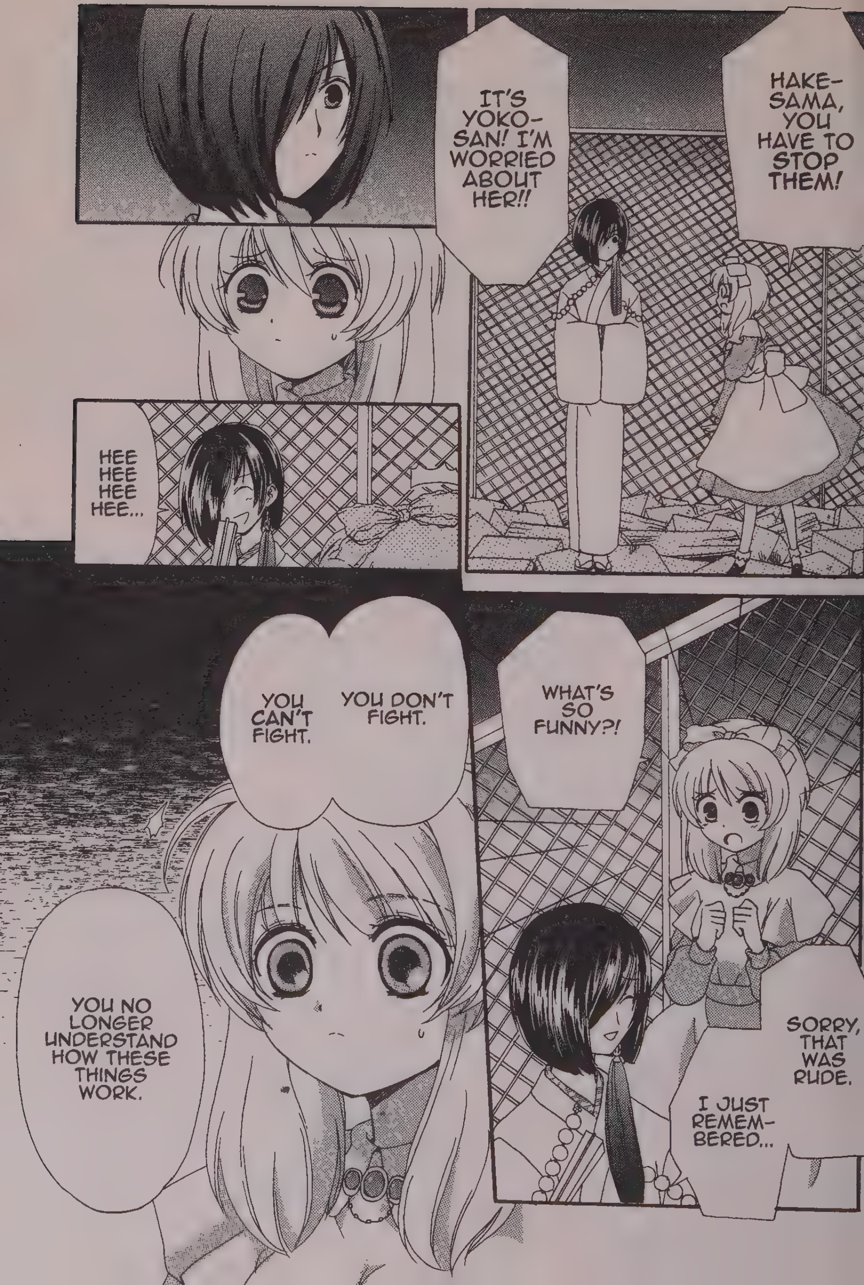

DIE, YOKO!
GET LOST!!
CRIISH
CROOSH
FLAP
HOLD YOUR FIRE!

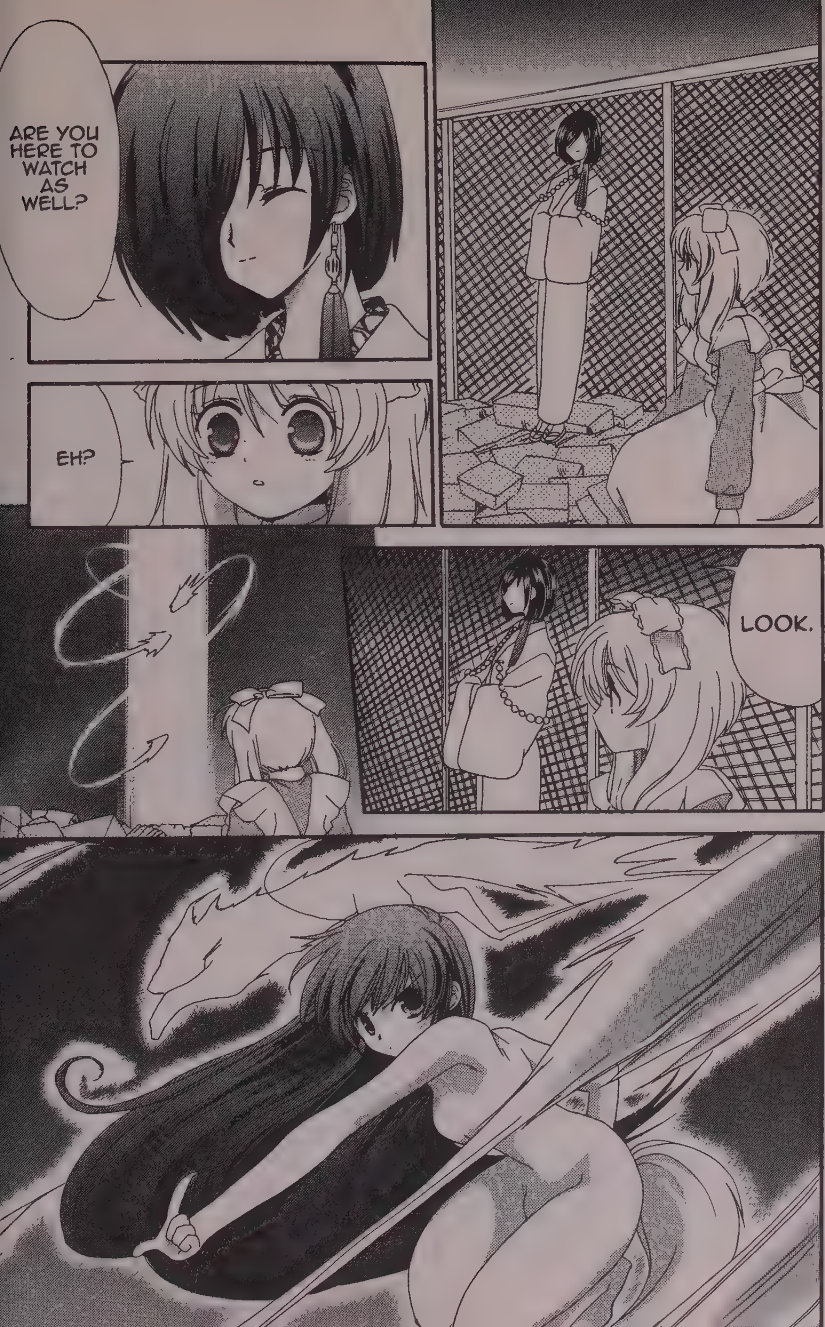

!...
NINE TAILS...
ROAR

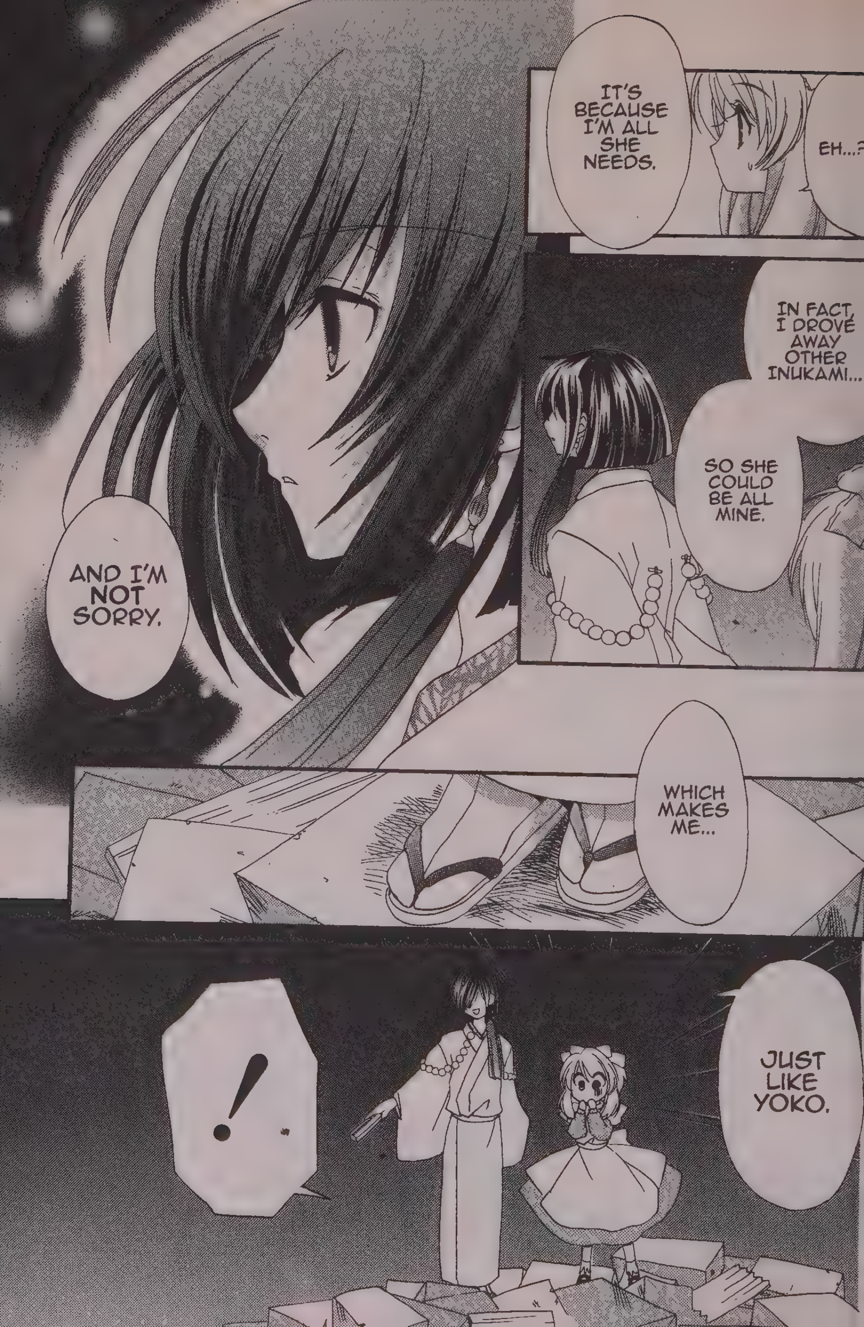

FRAAAAH
EEK!
FROO
ISH!
KYAAA!

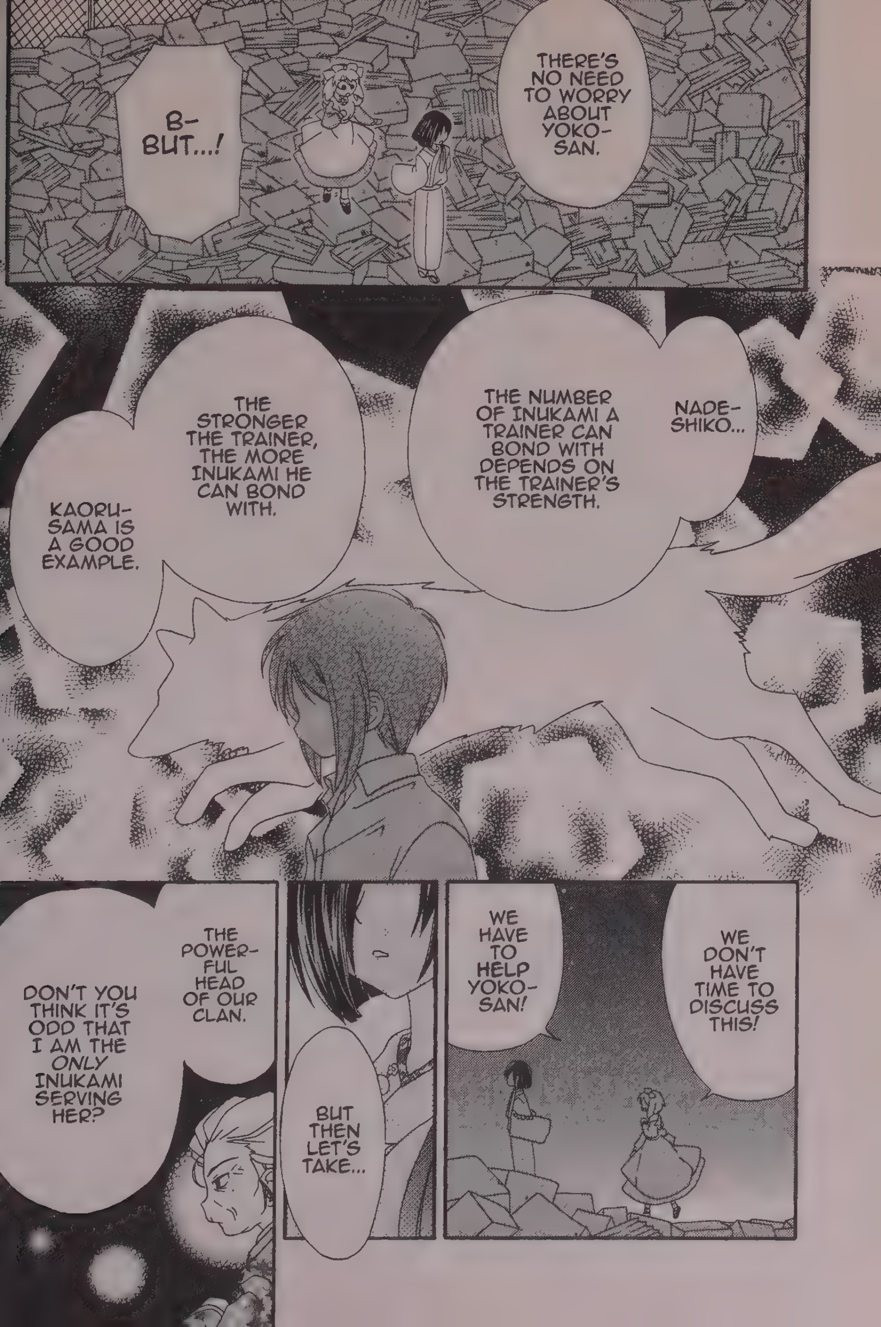

I CAN SMELL SENDAN AND THE OTHERS OVER HERE...
THIS WAY!
ガ
RATTLE
ガシャ
I HAVE TO STOP THEM!
AH!
ズル
SLIP
ドサ
THUD
OW...
I HAVE TO HURRY!
OH, NADESHIKO.
WHAT A SURPRISE TO SEE YOU HERE.

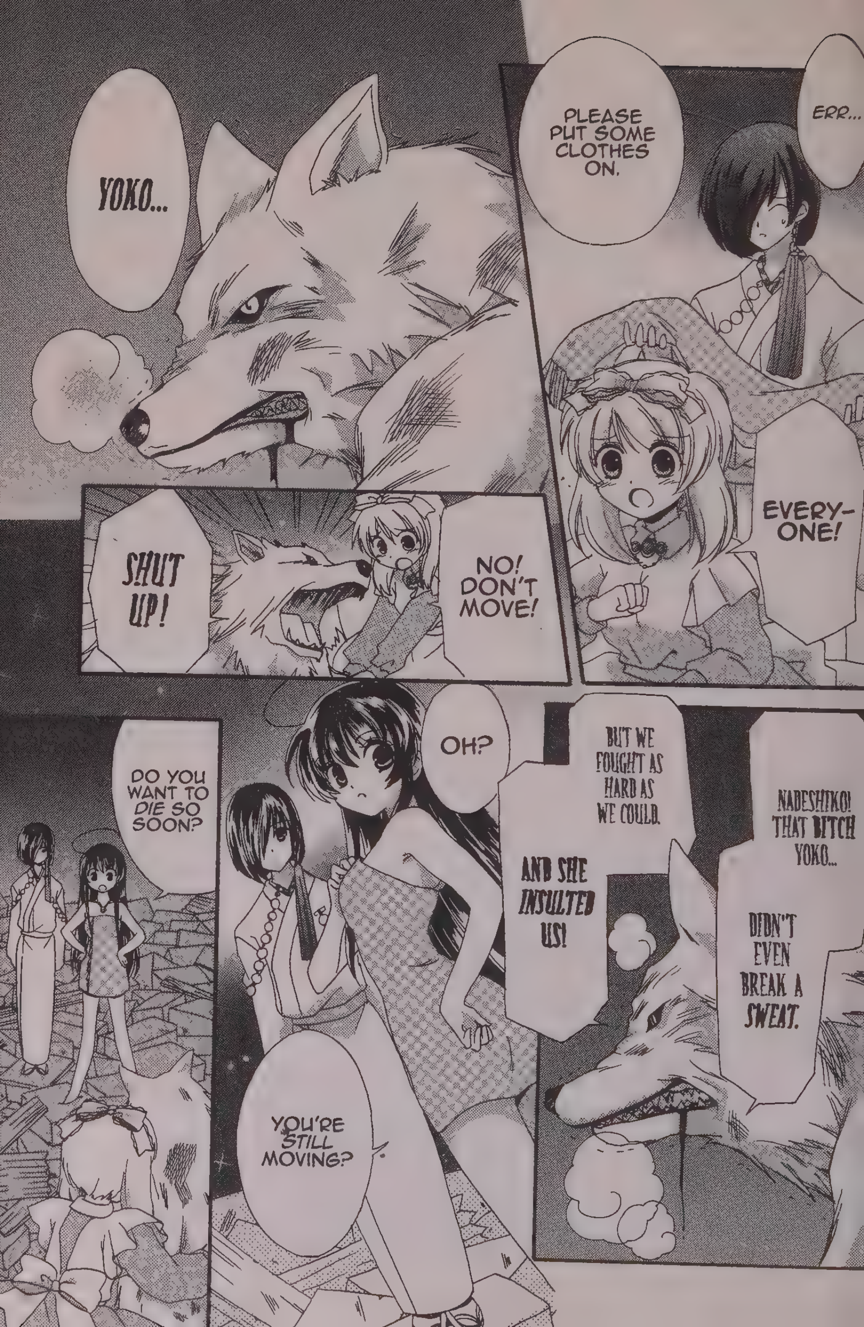

STEP
HMM.
NOT BAD.
I GUESS IT'S...
MY TURN NOW.

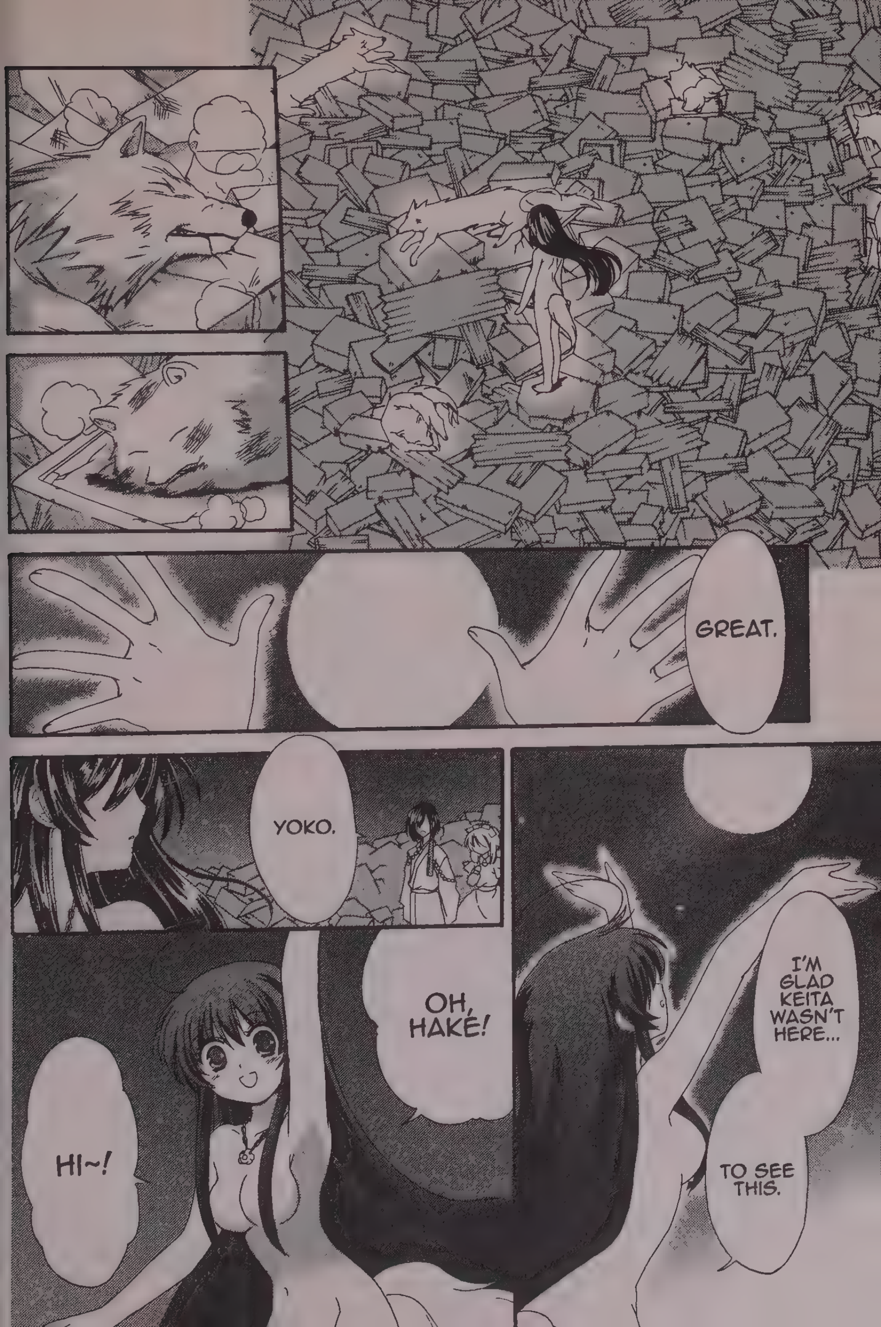

HAKE-SAMA, YOU HAVE TO STOP THEM!
IT'S YOKO-SAN! I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER!!
HEE HEE HEE HEE...
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
SORRY, THAT WAS RUDE.
I JUST REMEMBERED...
YOU DON'T FIGHT.
YOU CAN'T FIGHT.
YOU NO LONGER UNDERSTAND HOW THESE THINGS WORK.

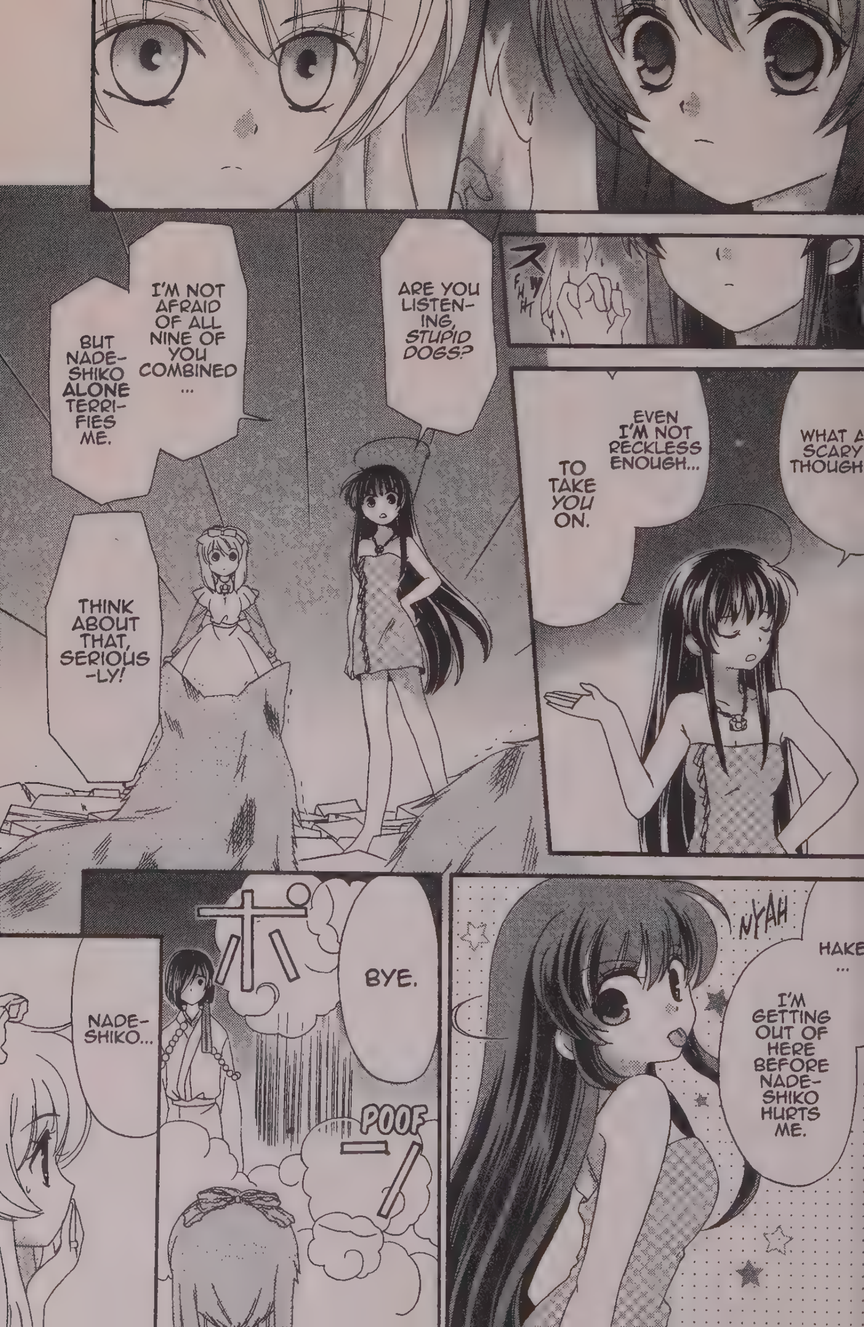

ARE YOU HERE TO WATCH AS WELL?
EH?
LOOK.

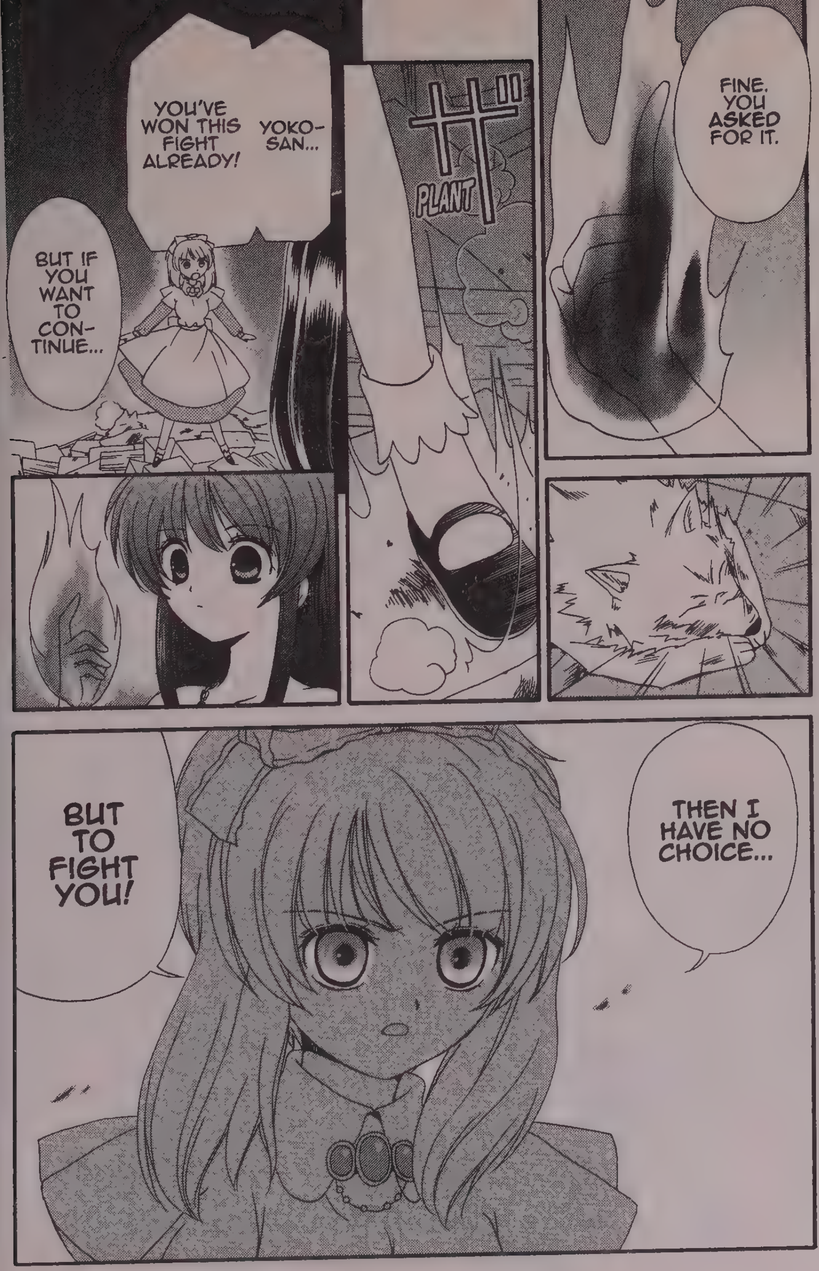

EH...?
IT'S BECAUSE I'M ALL SHE NEEDS.
IN FACT, I DROVE AWAY OTHER INUKAMI...
SO SHE COULD BE ALL MINE.
AND I'M NOT SORRY.
WHICH MAKES ME...
JUST LIKE YOKO.
!

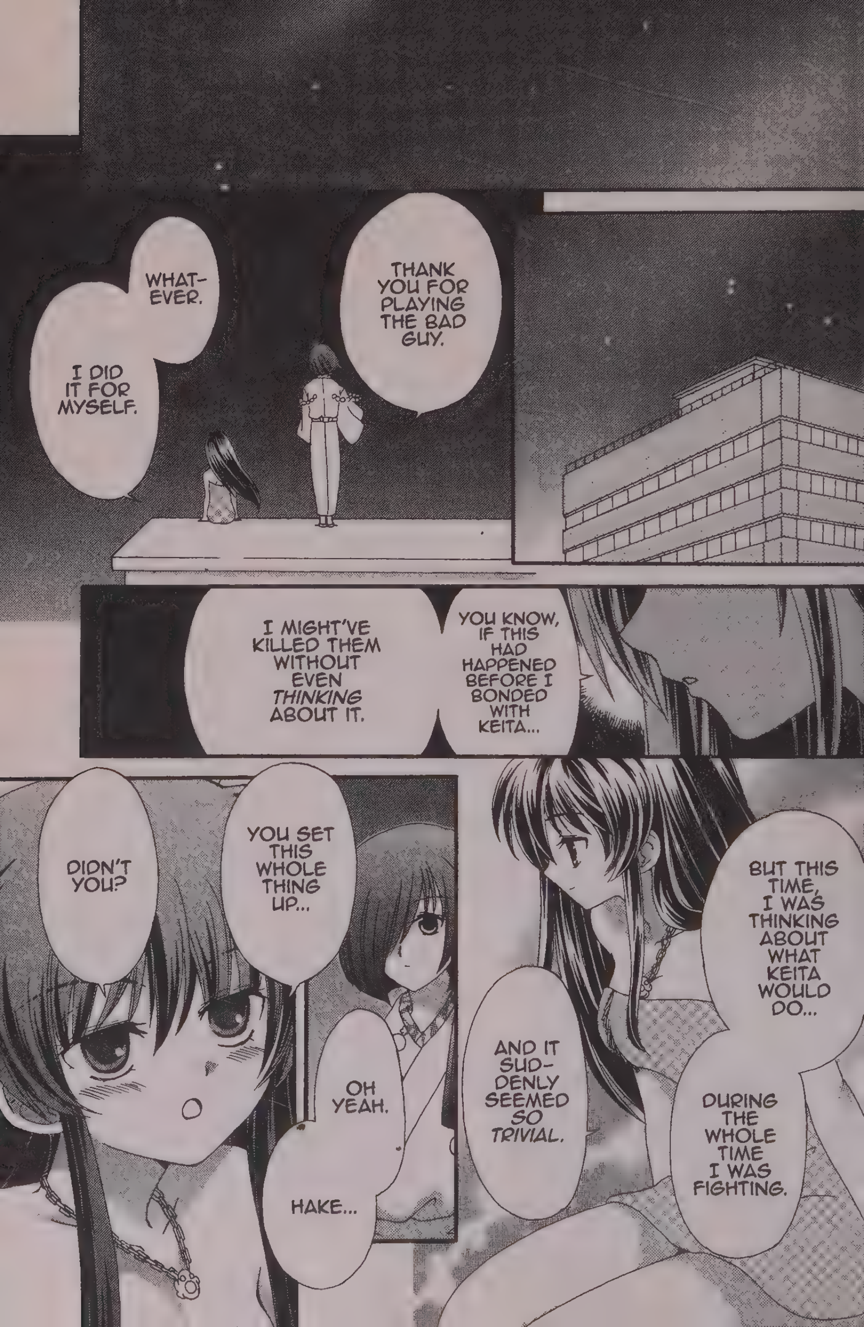

THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT YOKO-SAN.
B-BUT...!
NADESHIKO...
THE NUMBER OF INUKAMI A TRAINER CAN BOND WITH DEPENDS ON THE TRAINER'S STRENGTH.
THE STRONGER THE TRAINER, THE MORE INUKAMI HE CAN BOND WITH.
KAORU-SAMA IS A GOOD EXAMPLE.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO DISCUSS THIS!
WE HAVE TO HELP YOKO-SAN!
BUT THEN LET'S TAKE...
THE POWERFUL HEAD OF OUR CLAN.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ODD THAT I AM THE *ONLY* INUKAMI SERVING HER?

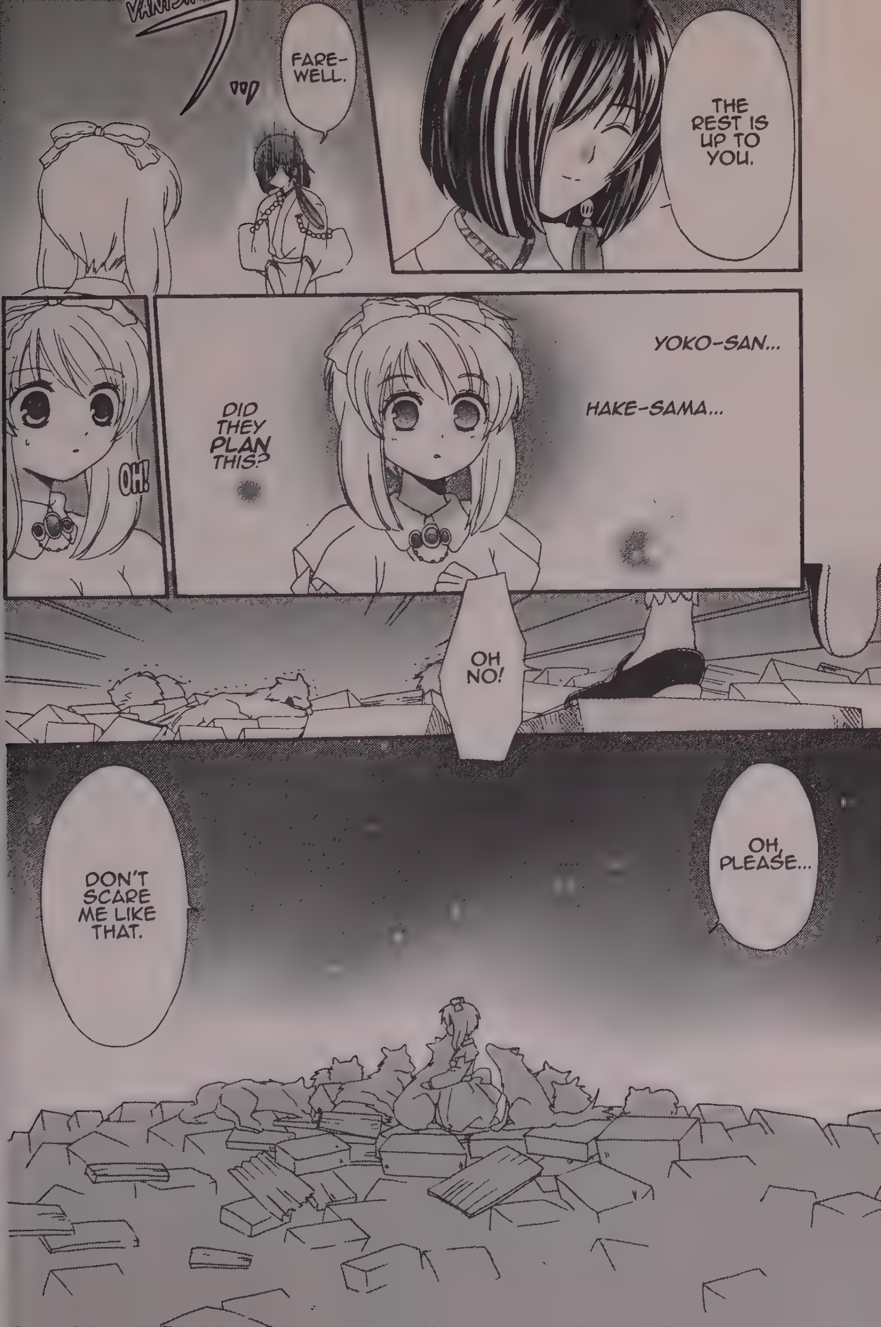

ERR...
PLEASE PUT SOME CLOTHES ON.
EVERYONE!
YOKO...
NO! DON'T MOVE!
SHUT UP!
NADESHIKO! THAT BITCH YOKO...
DIDN'T EVEN BREAK A SWEAT.
BUT WE FOUGHT AS HARD AS WE COULD.
AND SHE INSULTED US!
OH?
YOU'RE STILL MOVING?
DO YOU WANT TO *DIE* SO SOON?

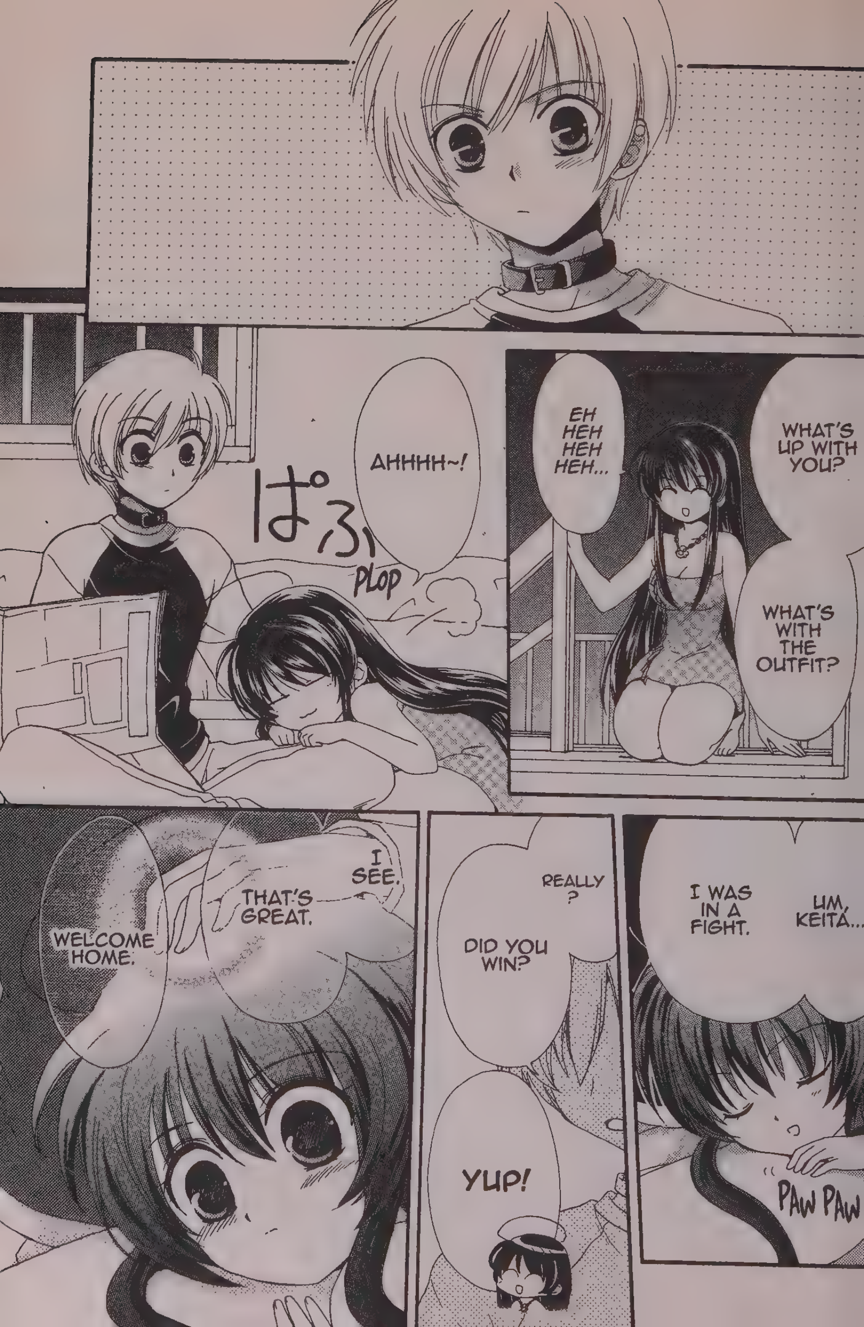

GREAT.
I'M GLAD KEITA WASN'T HERE...
TO SEE THIS.
YOKO.
OH, HAKE!
HI~!

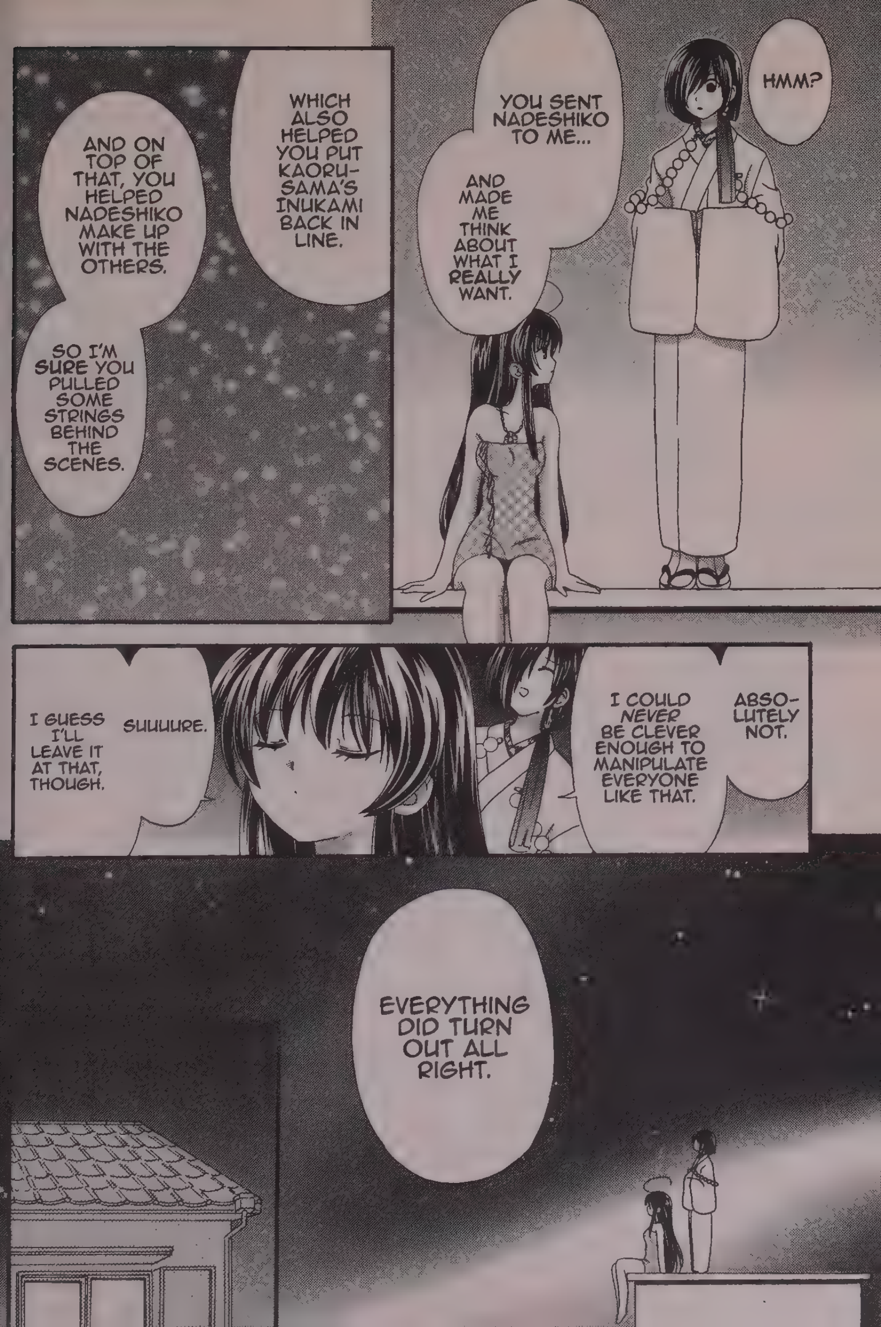

ス FHHT
WHAT A SCARY THOUGH
EVEN I'M NOT RECKLESS ENOUGH...
TO TAKE YOU ON.
ARE YOU LISTENING, STUPID DOGS?
I'M NOT AFRAID OF ALL NINE OF YOU COMBINED...
BUT NADESHIKO ALONE TERRIFIES ME.
THINK ABOUT THAT, SERIOUSLY!
HAKE ...
NYAH
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE BEFORE NADESHIKO HURTS ME.
ポン
BYE.
POOF
NADESHIKO...

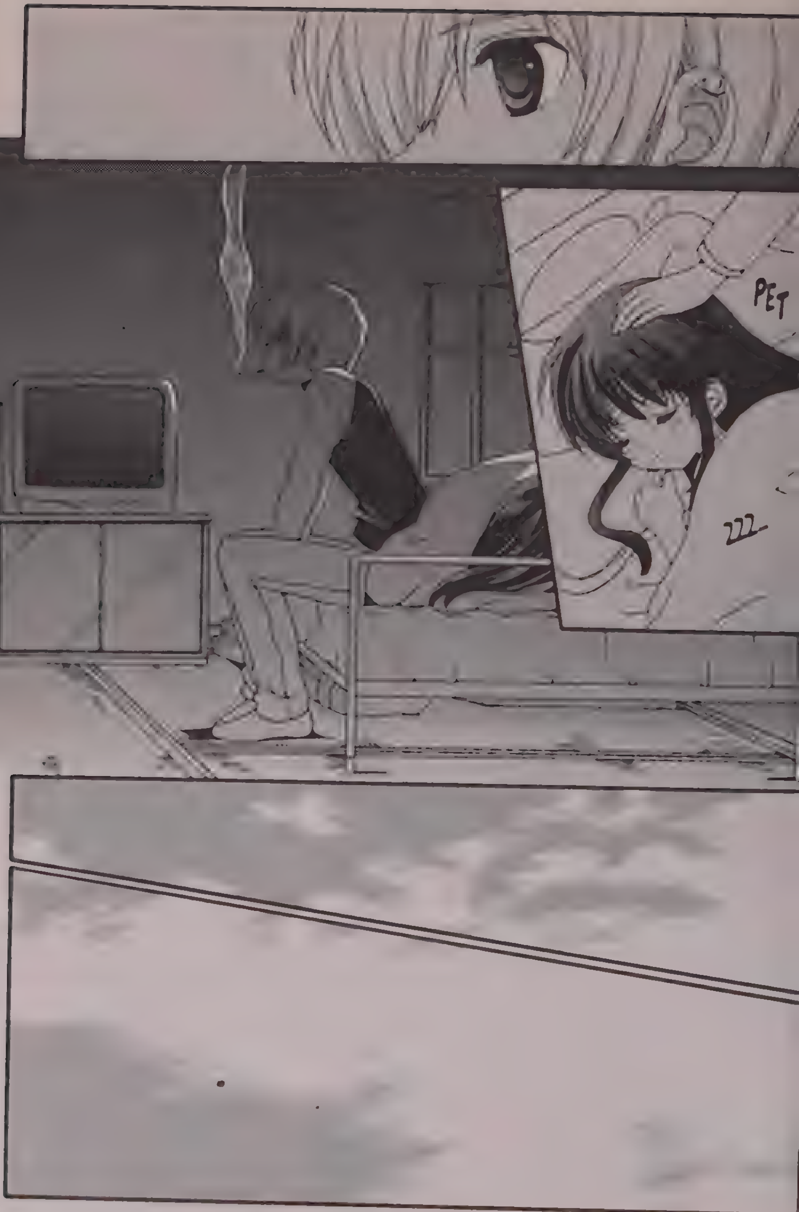

FINE. YOU ASKED FOR IT.
PLANT
YOKO-SAN...
YOU'VE WON THIS FIGHT ALREADY!
BUT IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE...
THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE...
BUT TO FIGHT YOU!

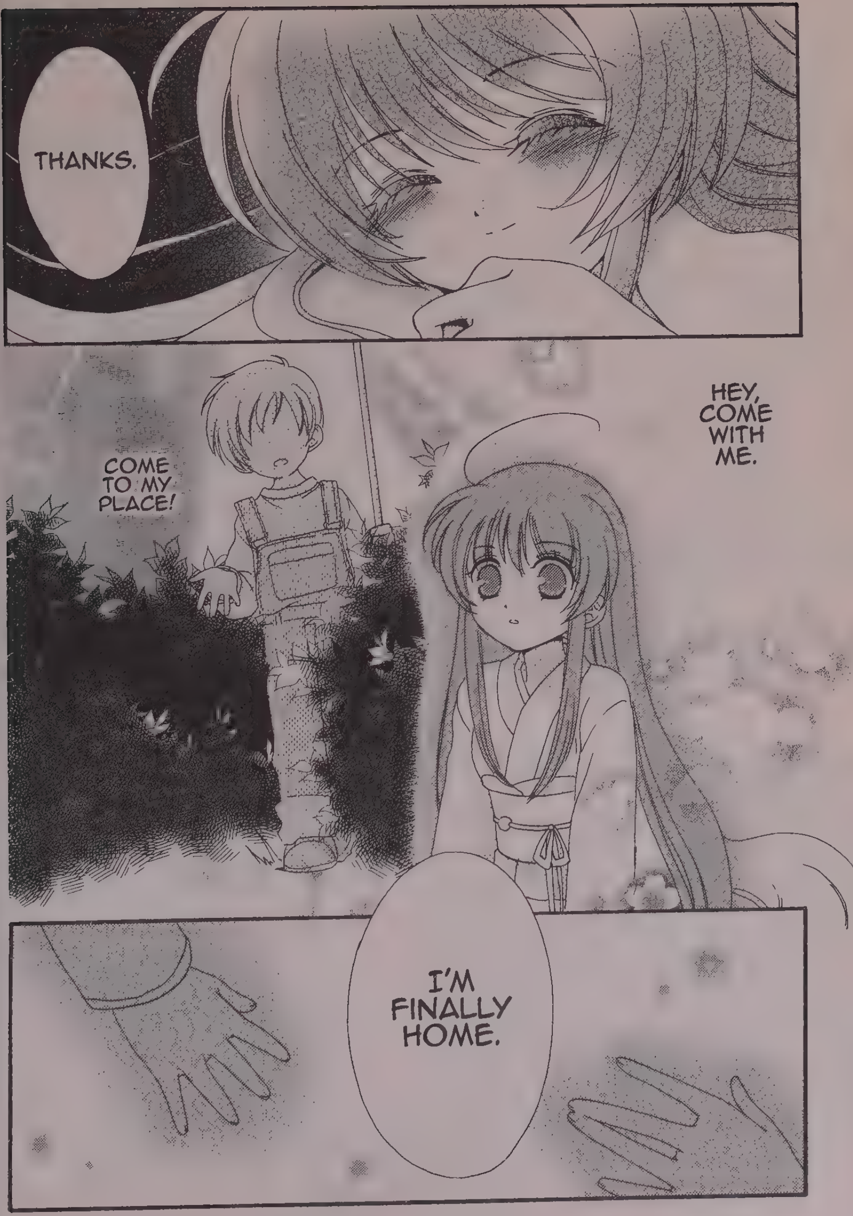

THANK YOU FOR PLAYING THE BAD GUY.
WHATEVER.
I DID IT FOR MYSELF.
YOU KNOW, IF THIS HAD HAPPENED BEFORE I BONDED WITH KEITA...
I MIGHT'VE KILLED THEM WITHOUT EVEN *THINKING* ABOUT IT.
BUT THIS TIME, I WAS THINKING ABOUT WHAT KEITA WOULD DO...
DURING THE WHOLE TIME I WAS FIGHTING.
AND IT SUDDENLY SEEMED *SO TRIVIAL*.
OH YEAH.
HAKE...
YOU SET THIS WHOLE THING UP...
DIDN'T YOU?

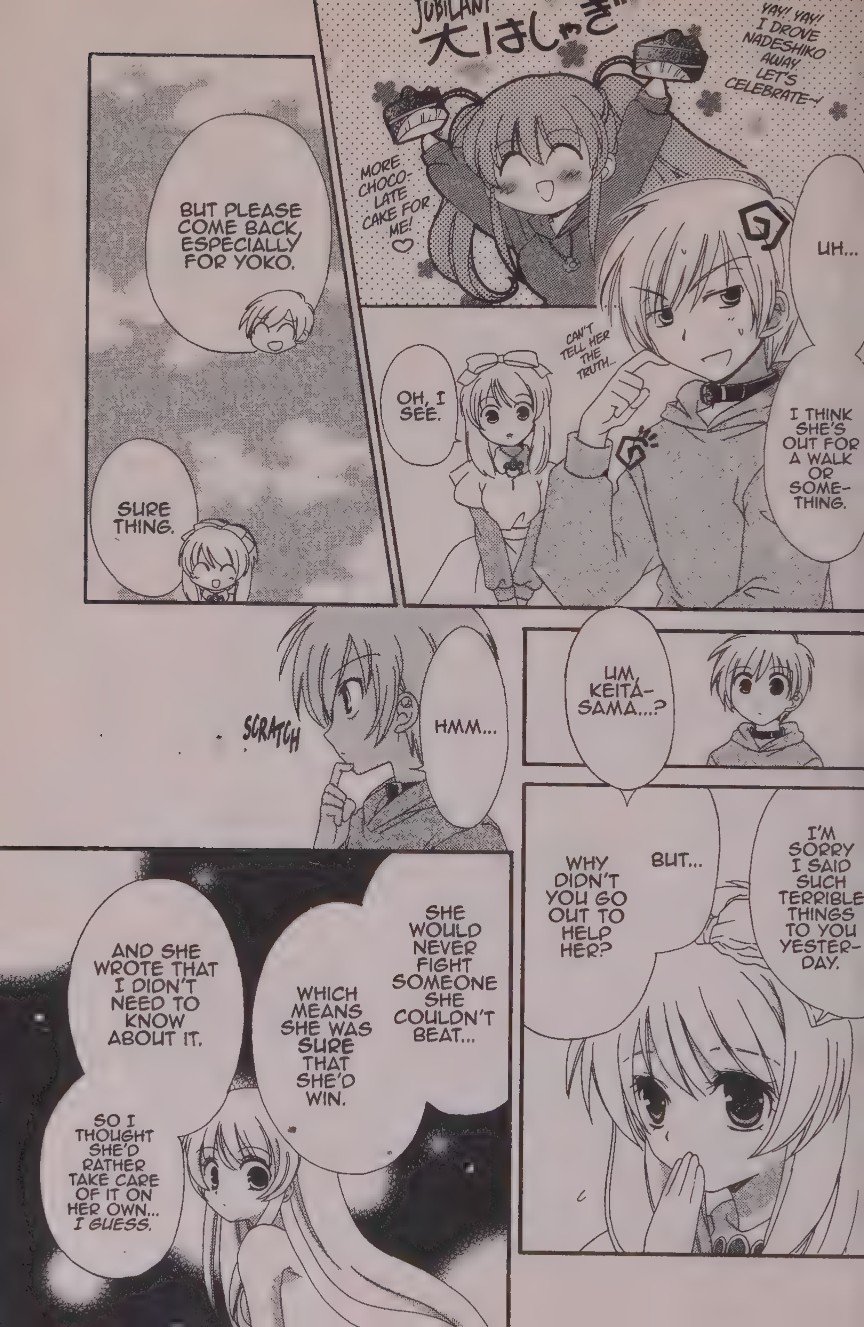

THE REST IS UP TO YOU.
FARE-WELL.
VANISH
YOKO-SAN...
HAKE-SAMA...
DID THEY PLAN THIS?
OH!
OH NO!
OH, PLEASE...
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT.

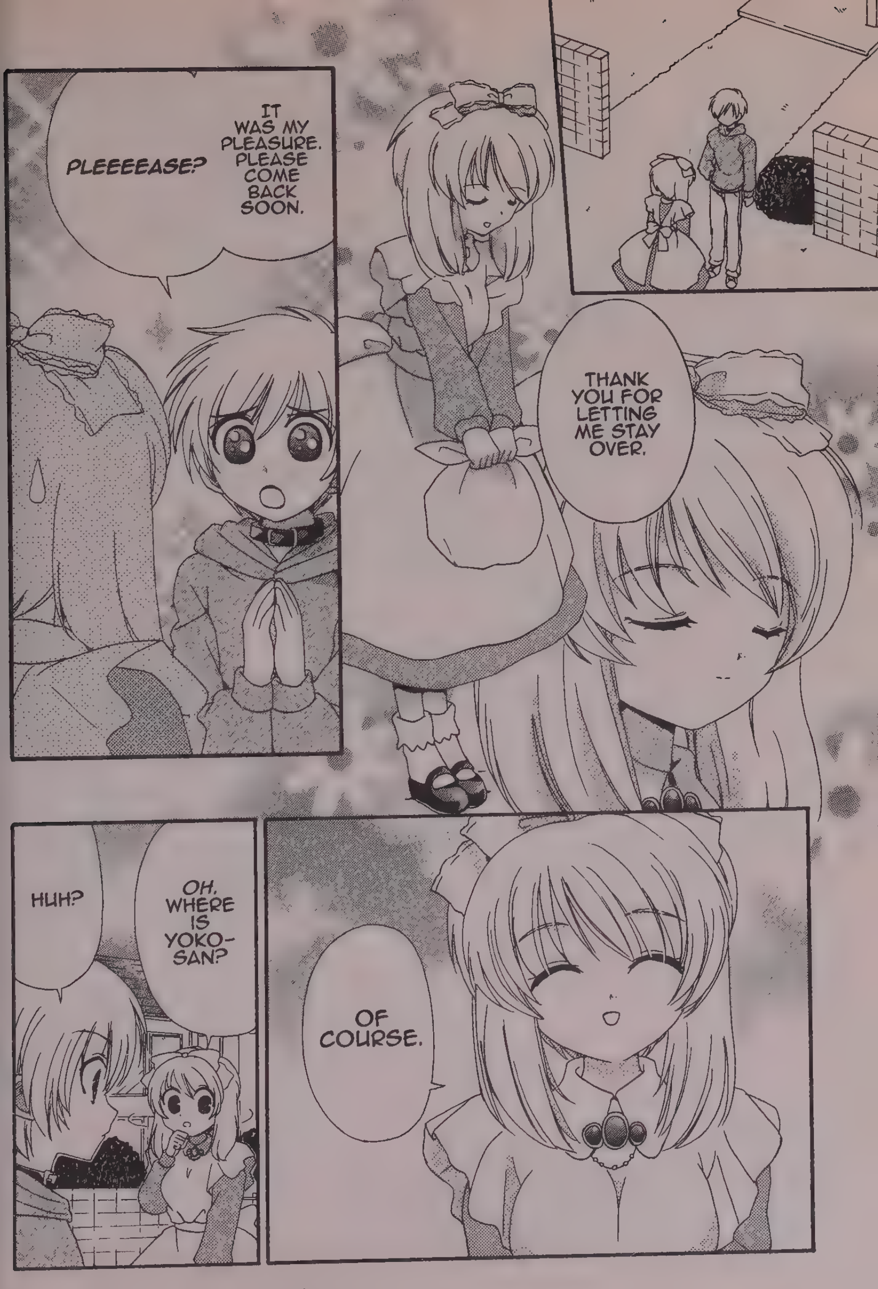

WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?
WHAT'S WITH THE OUTFIT?
EH HEH HEH HEH...
AHHHH~!
ぱふ
PLOP
UM, KEITA...
I WAS IN A FIGHT.
PAW PAW
REALLY?
DID YOU WIN?
YUP!
I SEE.
THAT'S GREAT.
WELCOME HOME.

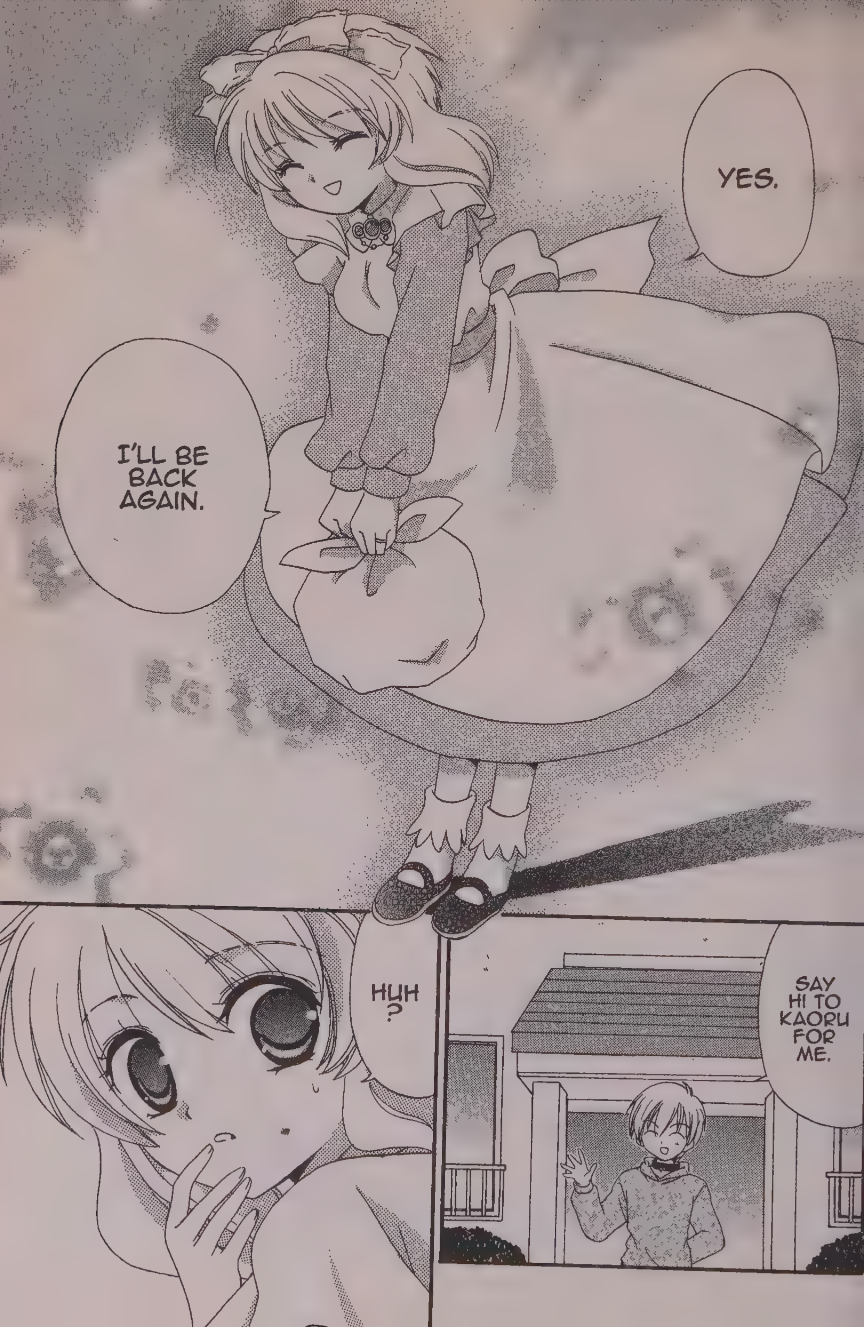

HMM?
YOU SENT NADESHIKO TO ME...
AND MADE ME THINK ABOUT WHAT I REALLY WANT.
WHICH ALSO HELPED YOU PUT KAORU-SAMA'S INUKAMI BACK IN LINE.
AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU HELPED NADESHIKO MAKE UP WITH THE OTHERS.
SO I'M SURE YOU PULLED SOME STRINGS BEHIND THE SCENES.
ABSOLUTELY NOT.
I COULD *NEVER* BE CLEVER ENOUGH TO MANIPULATE EVERYONE LIKE THAT.
SUUUURE.
I GUESS I'LL LEAVE IT AT THAT, THOUGH.
EVERYTHING DID TURN OUT ALL RIGHT.

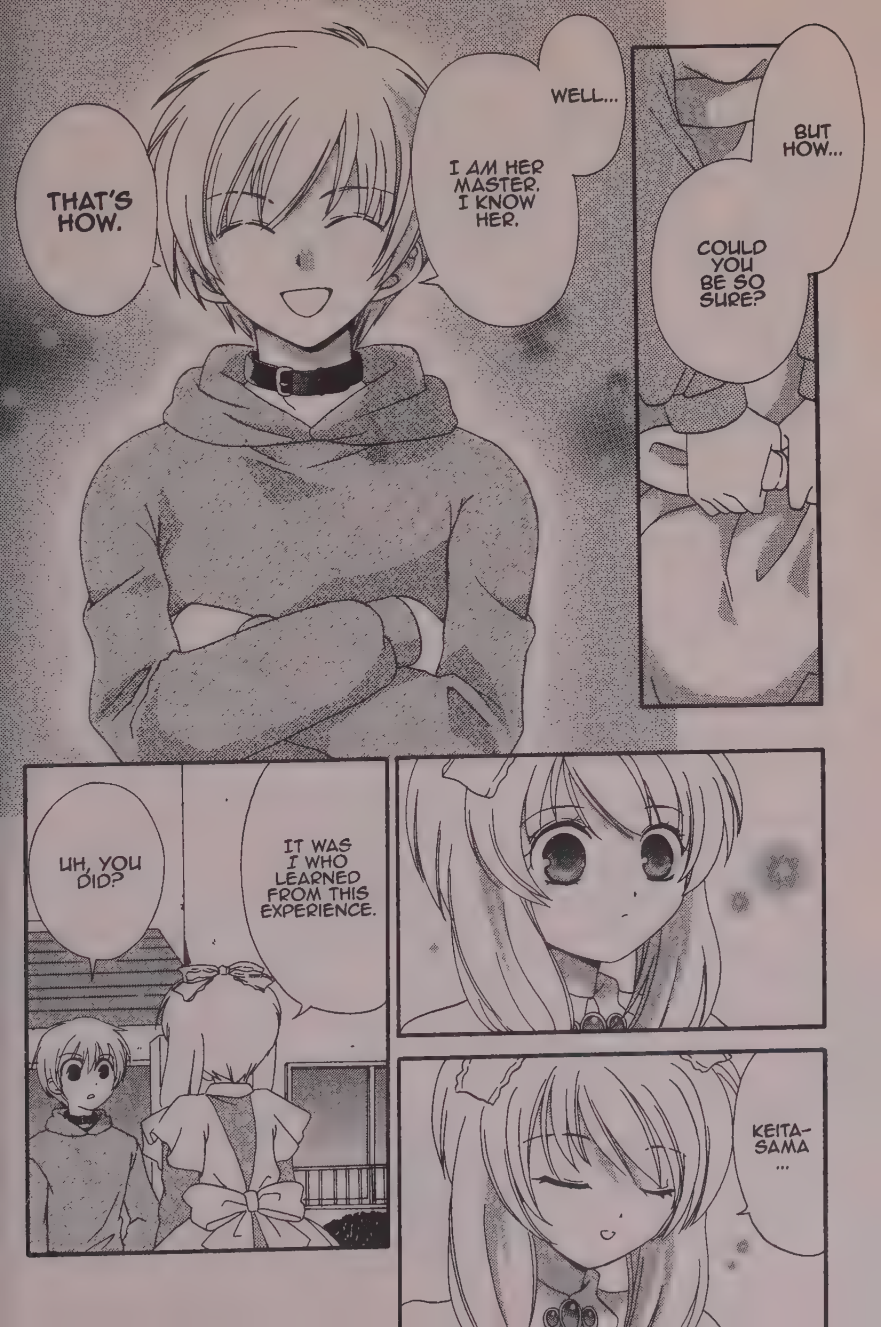

PET
zzz

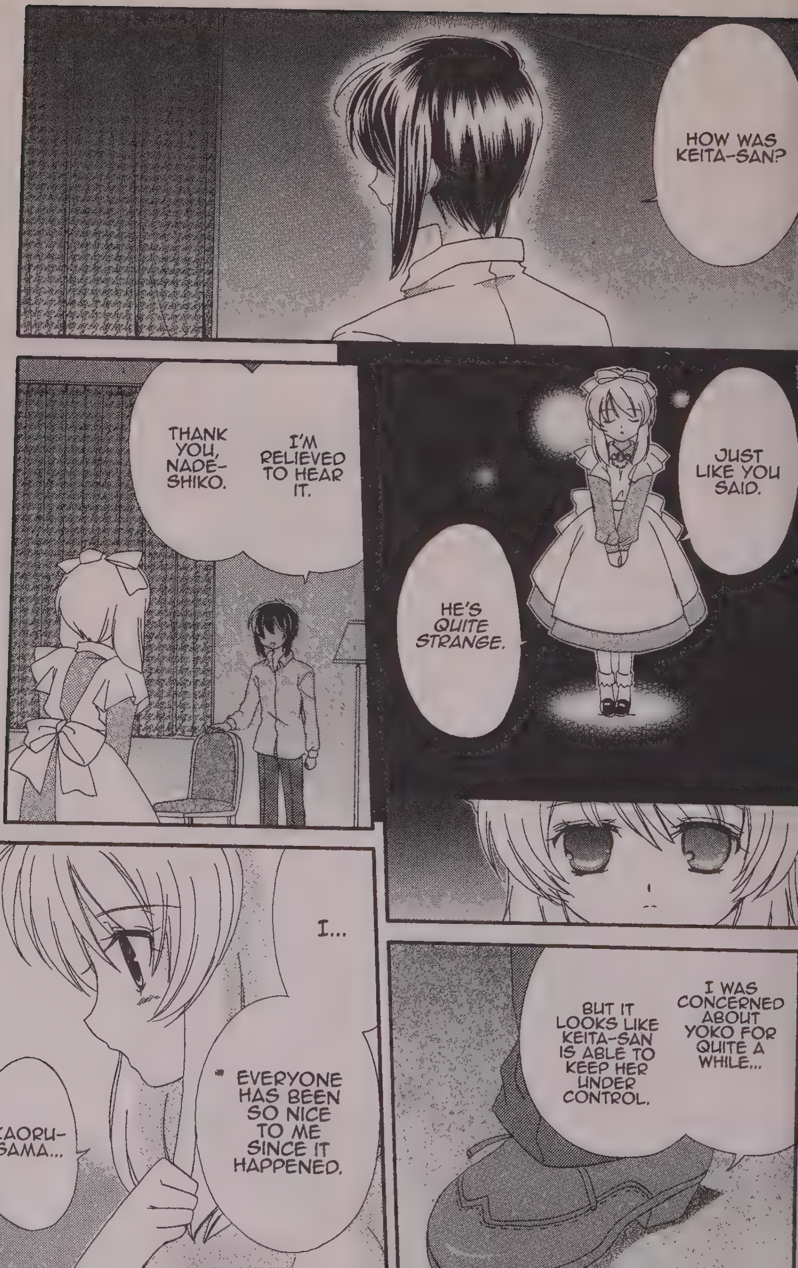

THANKS.
HEY, COME WITH ME.
COME TO MY PLACE!
I'M FINALLY HOME.

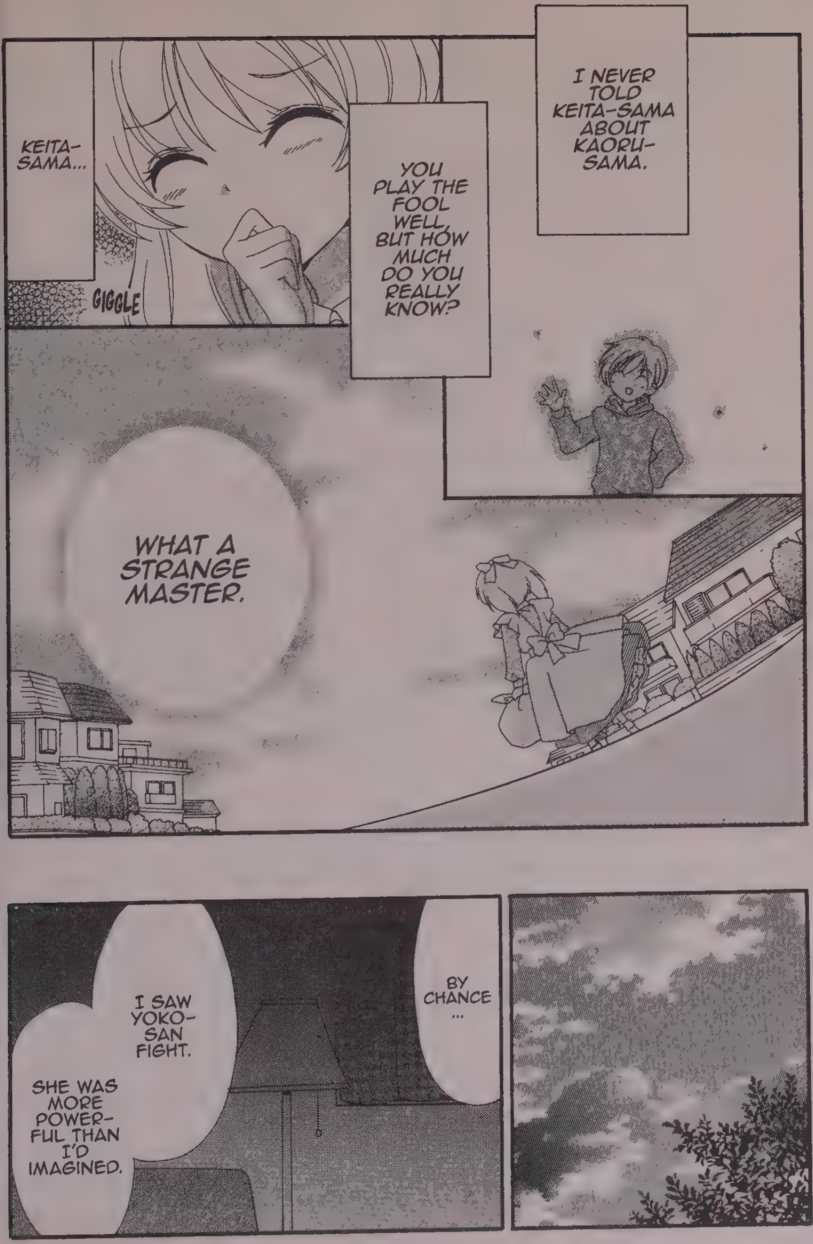

UH...
I THINK SHE'S OUT FOR A WALK OR SOMETHING.
CAN'T TELL HER THE TRUTH...
OH, I SEE.
JUBILANT
大はしゃぎ
YAY! YAY! I DROVE NADESHIKO AWAY. LET'S CELEBRATE~!
MORE CHOCOLATE CAKE FOR ME! ♡
BUT PLEASE COME BACK, ESPECIALLY FOR YOKO.
SURE THING.
UM, KEITA-SAMA...?
HMM...
SCRATCH
I'M SORRY I SAID SUCH TERRIBLE THINGS TO YOU YESTERDAY.
BUT...
WHY DIDN'T YOU GO OUT TO HELP HER?
SHE WOULD NEVER FIGHT SOMEONE SHE COULDN'T BEAT...
WHICH MEANS SHE WAS SURE THAT SHE'D WIN.
AND SHE WROTE THAT I DIDN'T NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IT.
SO I THOUGHT SHE'D RATHER TAKE CARE OF IT ON HER OWN... I GUESS.

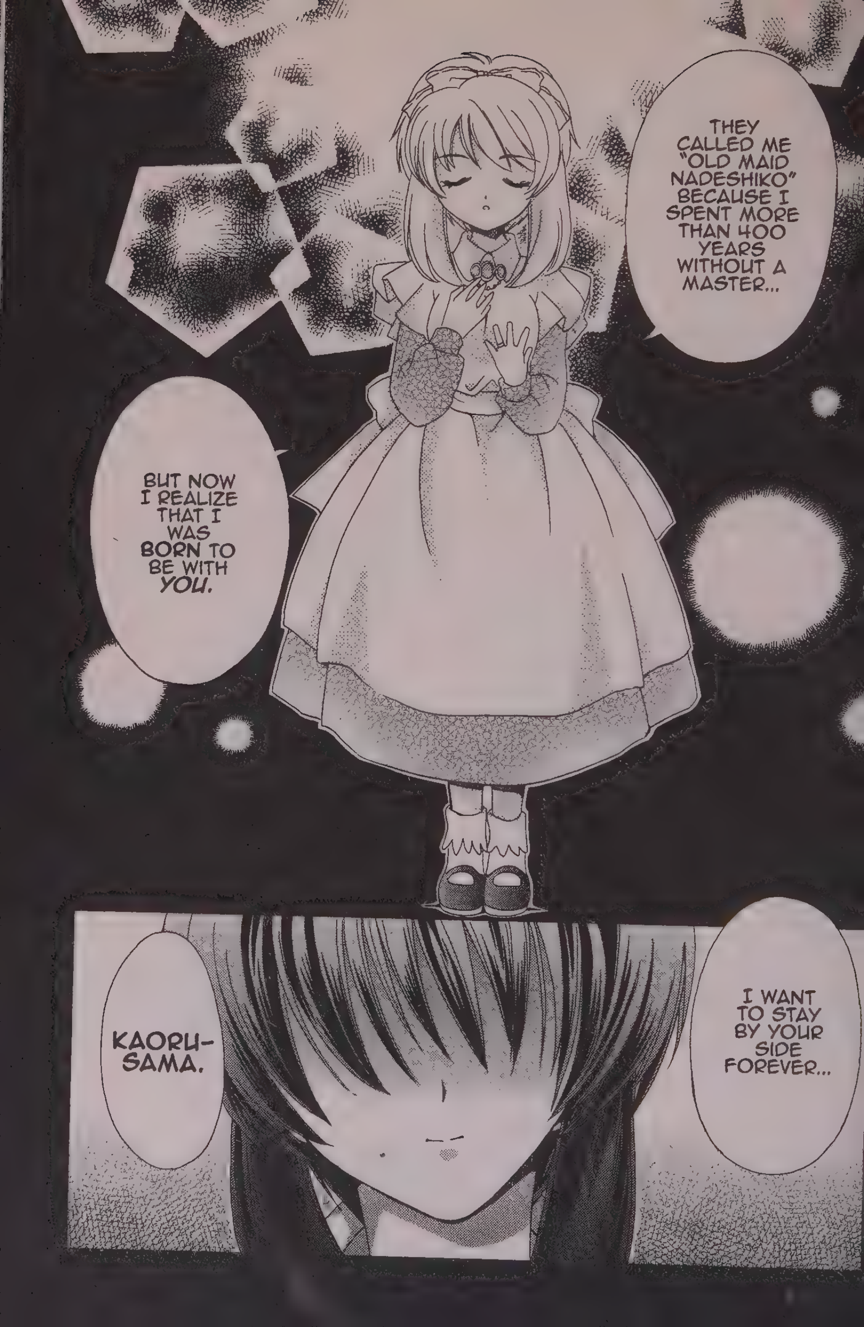

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME STAY OVER.
IT WAS MY PLEASURE. PLEASE COME BACK SOON.
PLEEEEASE?
OF COURSE.
OH, WHERE IS YOKO-SAN?
HUH?

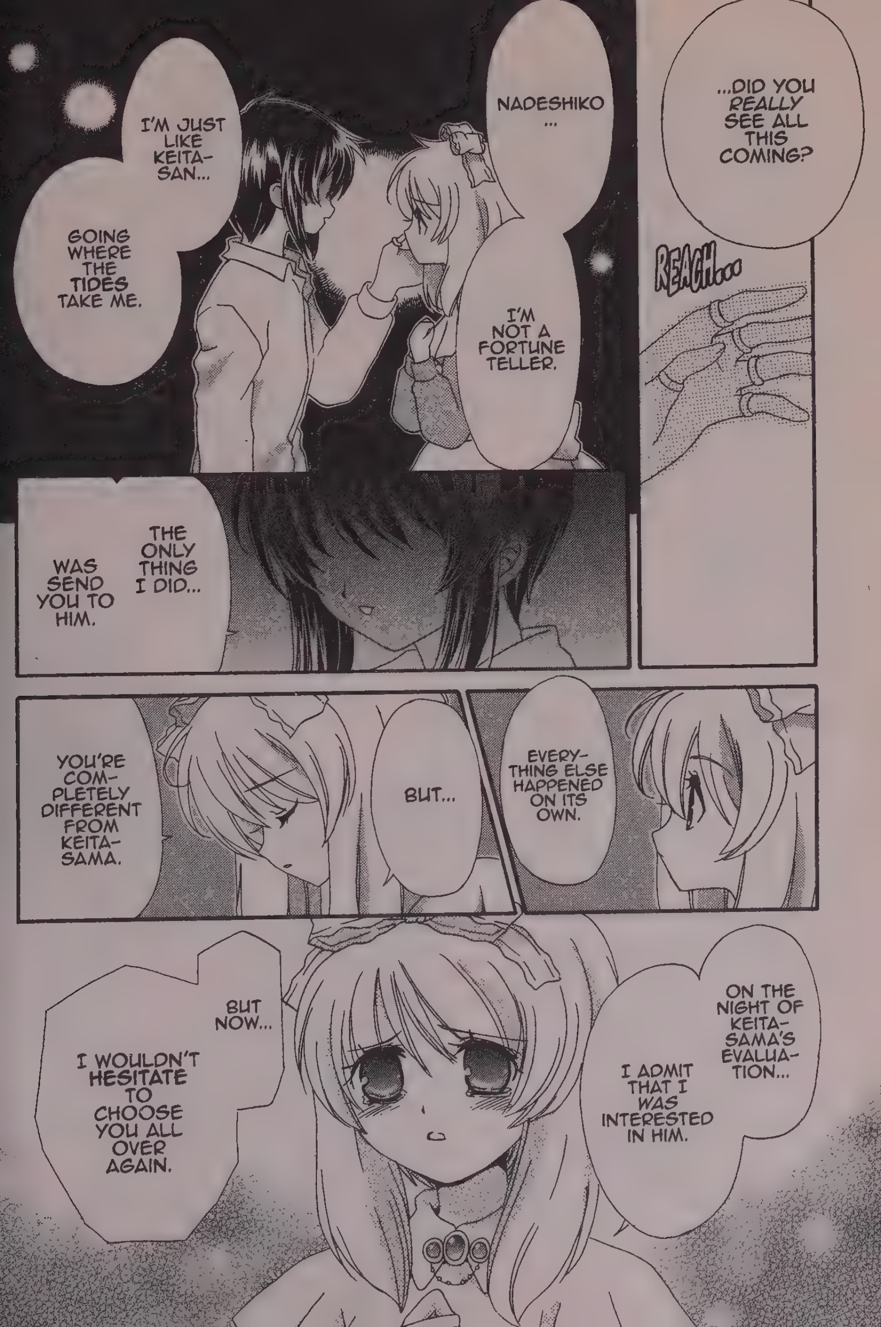

YES.
I'LL BE BACK AGAIN.
SAY HI TO KAORU FOR ME.
HUH?

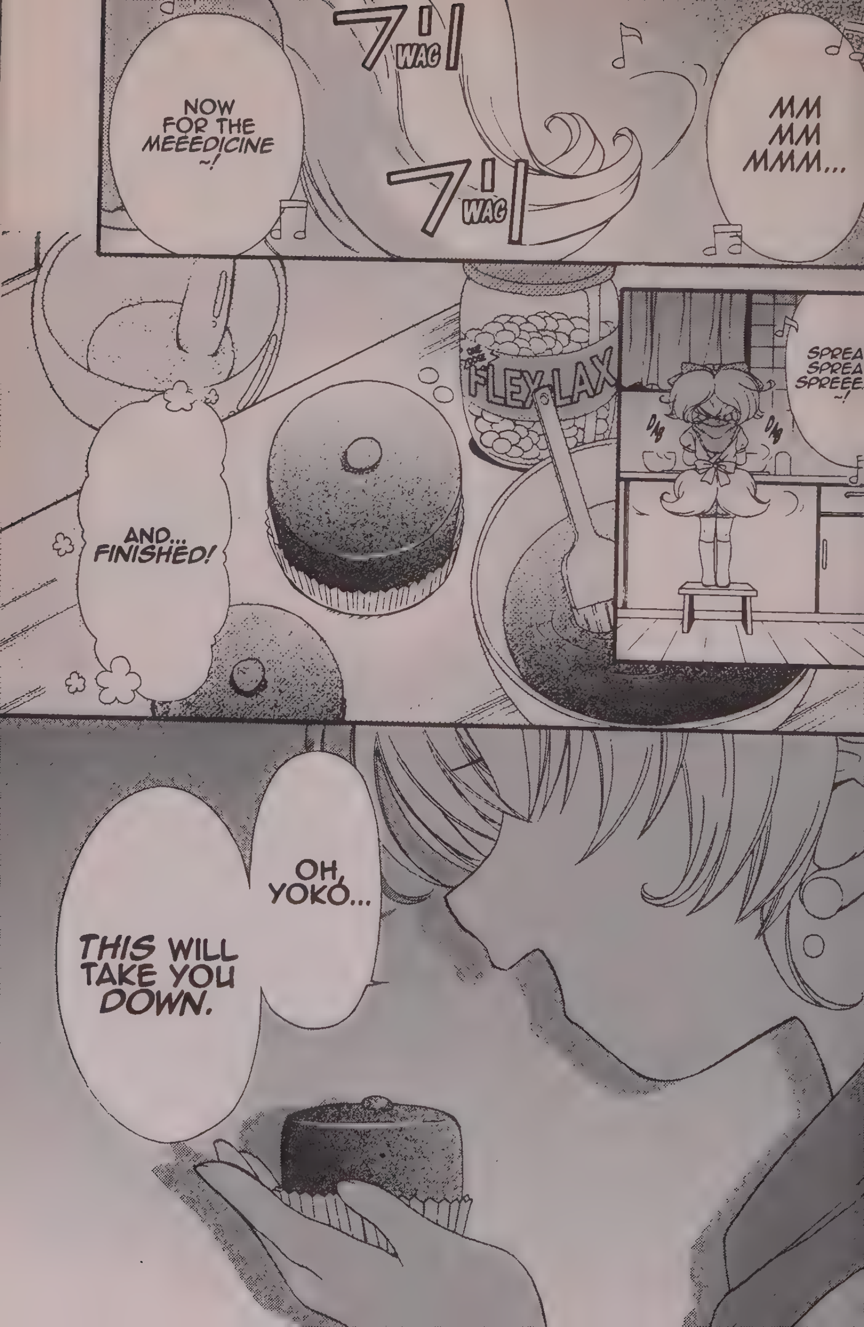

BUT HOW...
COULD YOU BE SO SURE?
WELL...
I AM HER MASTER. I KNOW HER.
THAT'S HOW.
IT WAS I WHO LEARNED FROM THIS EXPERIENCE.
UH, YOU DID?
KEITA-SAMA...


HOW WAS KEITA-SAN?
JUST LIKE YOU SAID.
HE'S QUITE STRANGE.
THANK YOU, NADESHIKO.
I'M RELIEVED TO HEAR IT.
I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT YOKO FOR QUITE A WHILE...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE KEITA-SAN IS ABLE TO KEEP HER UNDER CONTROL.
I...
EVERYONE HAS BEEN SO NICE TO ME SINCE IT HAPPENED.
KAORU-SAMA...


I NEVER TOLD KEITA-SAMA ABOUT KAORU-SAMA.
YOU PLAY THE FOOL WELL, BUT HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY KNOW?
KEITA-SAMA...
GIGGLE
WHAT A STRANGE MASTER.
BY CHANCE...
I SAW YOKO-SAN FIGHT.
SHE WAS MORE POWERFUL THAN I'D IMAGINED.

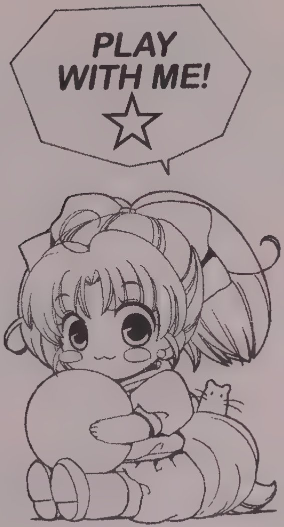

THEY CALLED ME "OLD MAID NADESHIKO" BECAUSE I SPENT MORE THAN 400 YEARS WITHOUT A MASTER...
BUT NOW I REALIZE THAT I WAS BORN TO BE WITH *YOU*.
I WANT TO STAY BY YOUR SIDE FOREVER...
KAORU-SAMA.

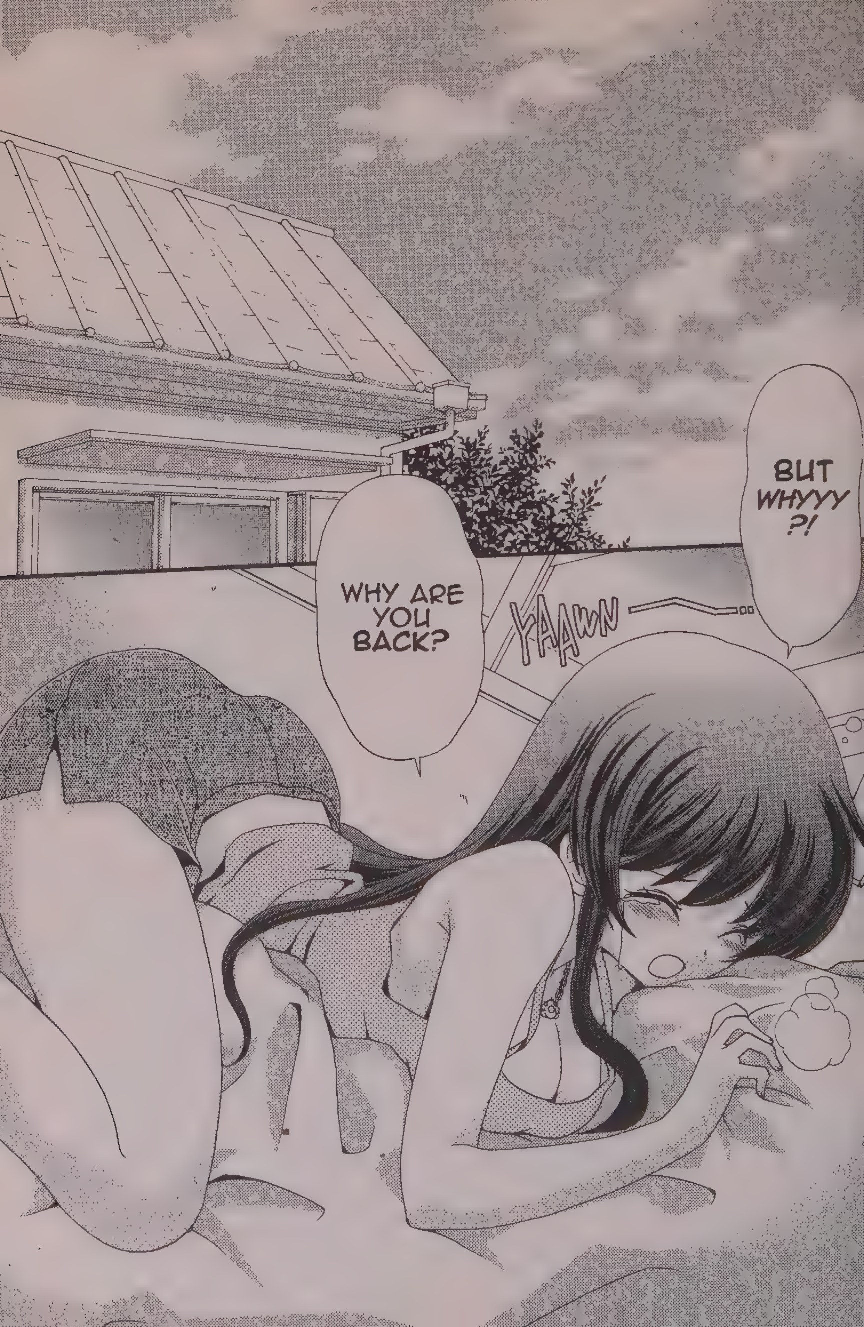

...DID YOU REALLY SEE ALL THIS COMING?
REACH...
NADESHIKO ...
I'M NOT A FORTUNE TELLER.
I'M JUST LIKE KEITA-SAN...
GOING WHERE THE TIDES TAKE ME.
THE ONLY THING I DID...
WAS SEND YOU TO HIM.
EVERYTHING ELSE HAPPENED ON ITS OWN.
BUT...
YOU'RE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM KEITA-SAMA.
ON THE NIGHT OF KEITA-SAMA'S EVALUATION...
I ADMIT THAT I WAS INTERESTED IN HIM.
BUT NOW...
I WOULDN'T HESITATE TO CHOOSE YOU ALL OVER AGAIN.


MM MM MMM...
WAG
WAG
NOW FOR THE MEEEDICINE ~!
SPREA SPREA SPREEE ~!
FLEX-LAX
AND... FINISHED!
OH, YOKO...
THIS WILL TAKE YOU DOWN.

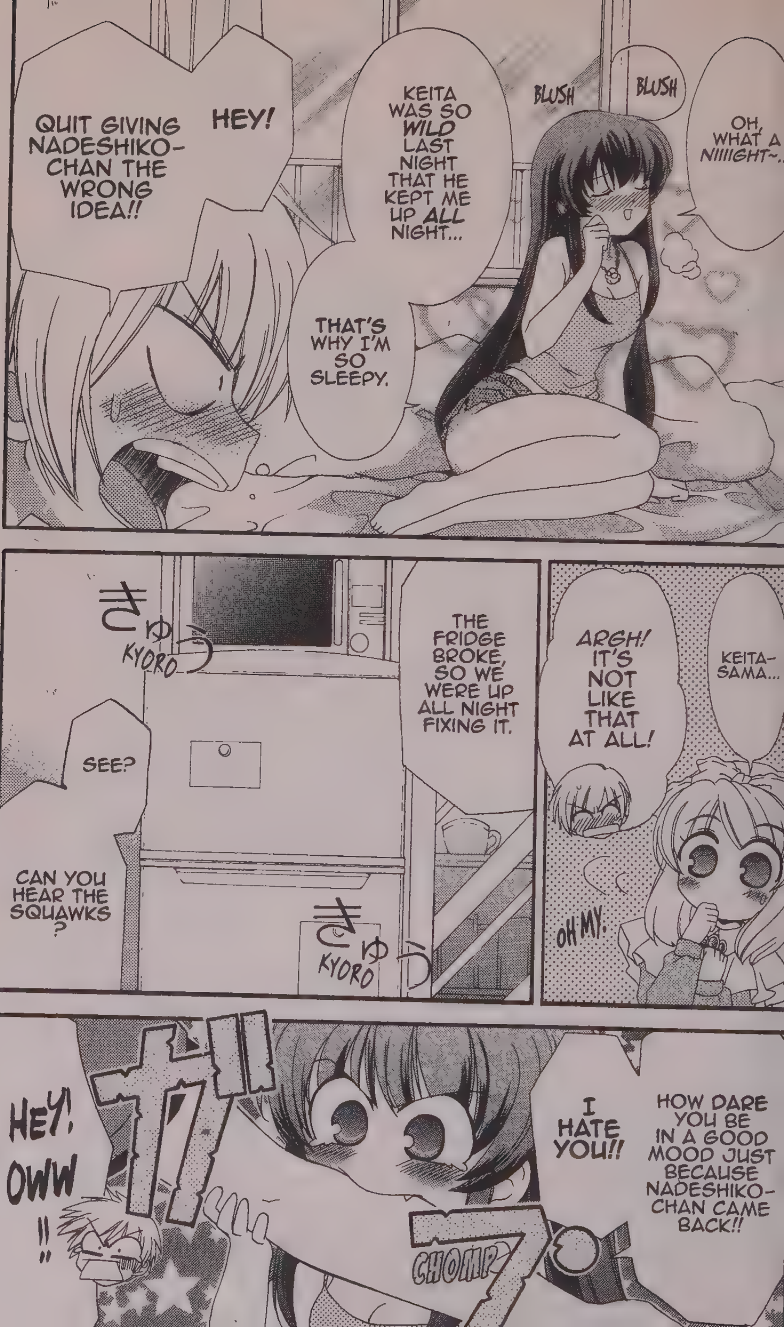
TOMOHANE

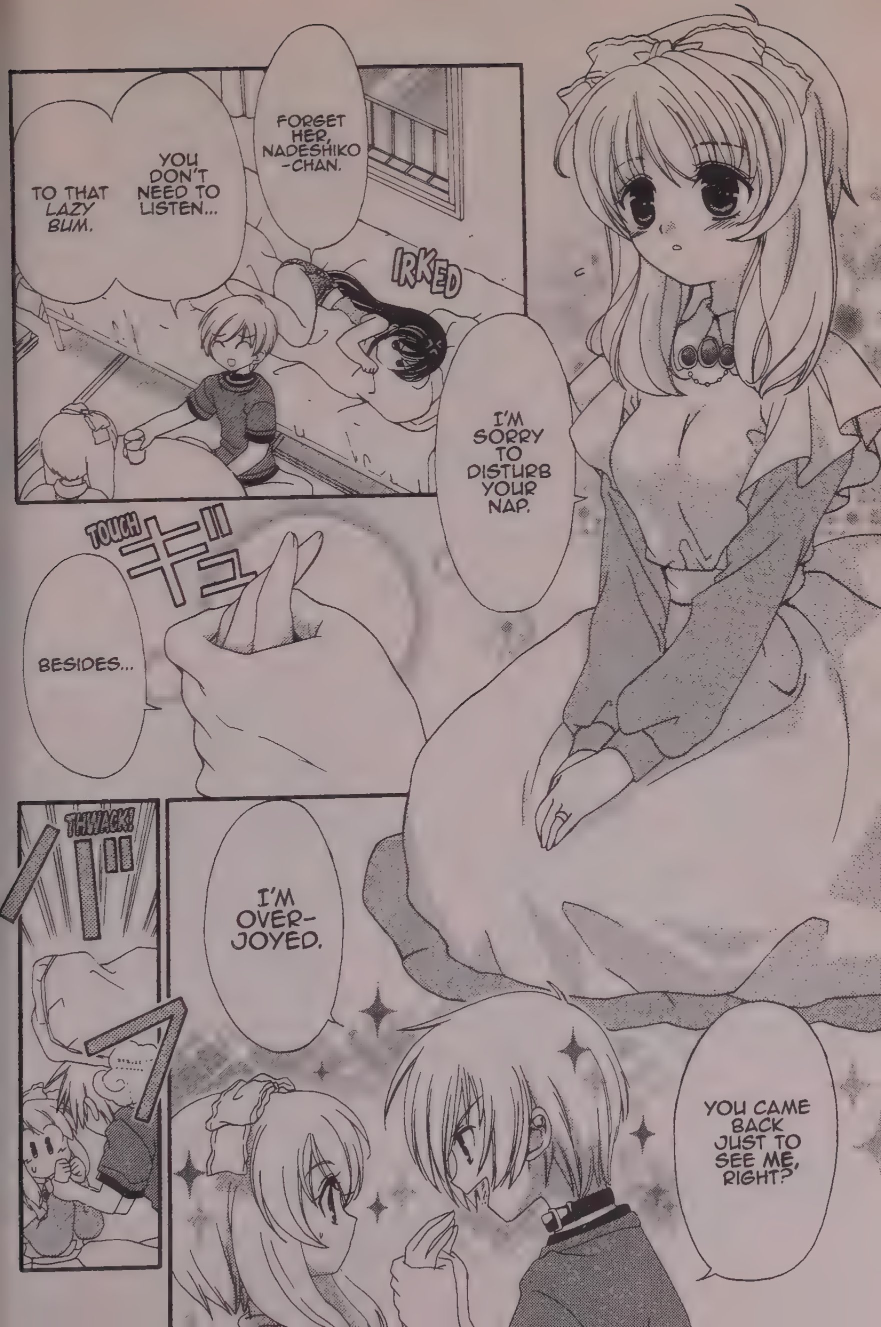
Height: 144 cm
Bust: ??
Waist: ??
Hip: ??
Age: 11

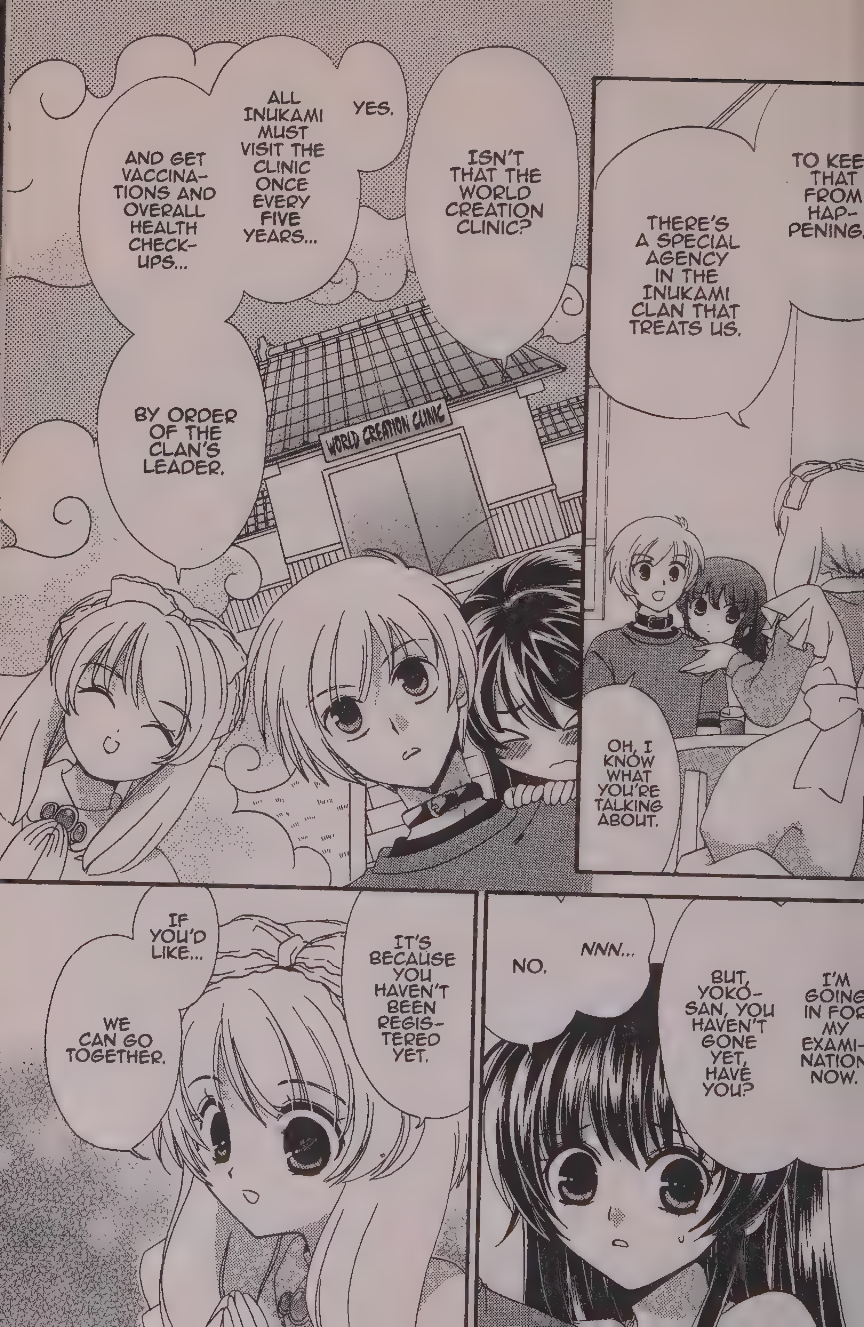

PLAY WITH ME! ☆

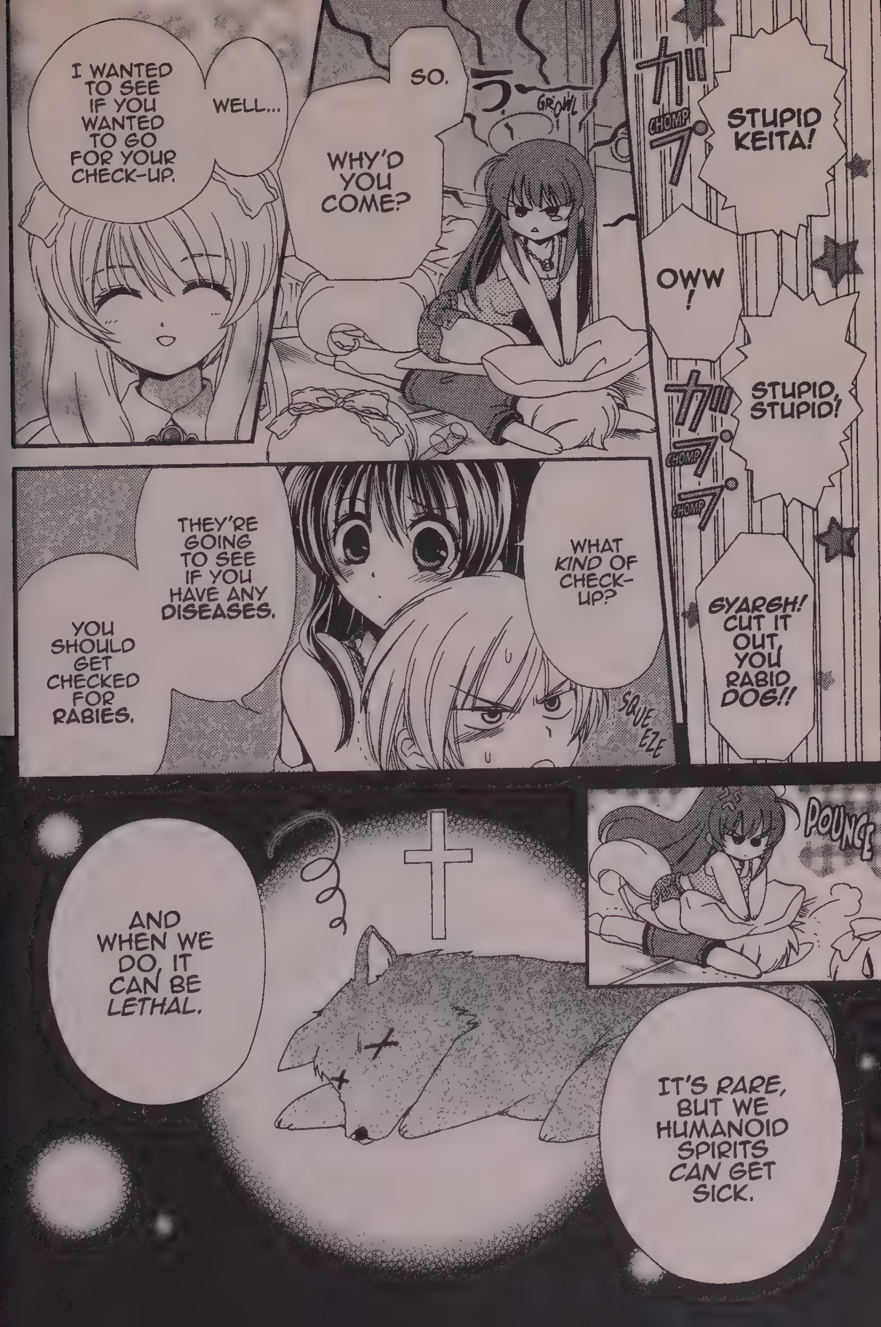

BUT WHYYY ?!
YAAWN
WHY ARE YOU BACK?

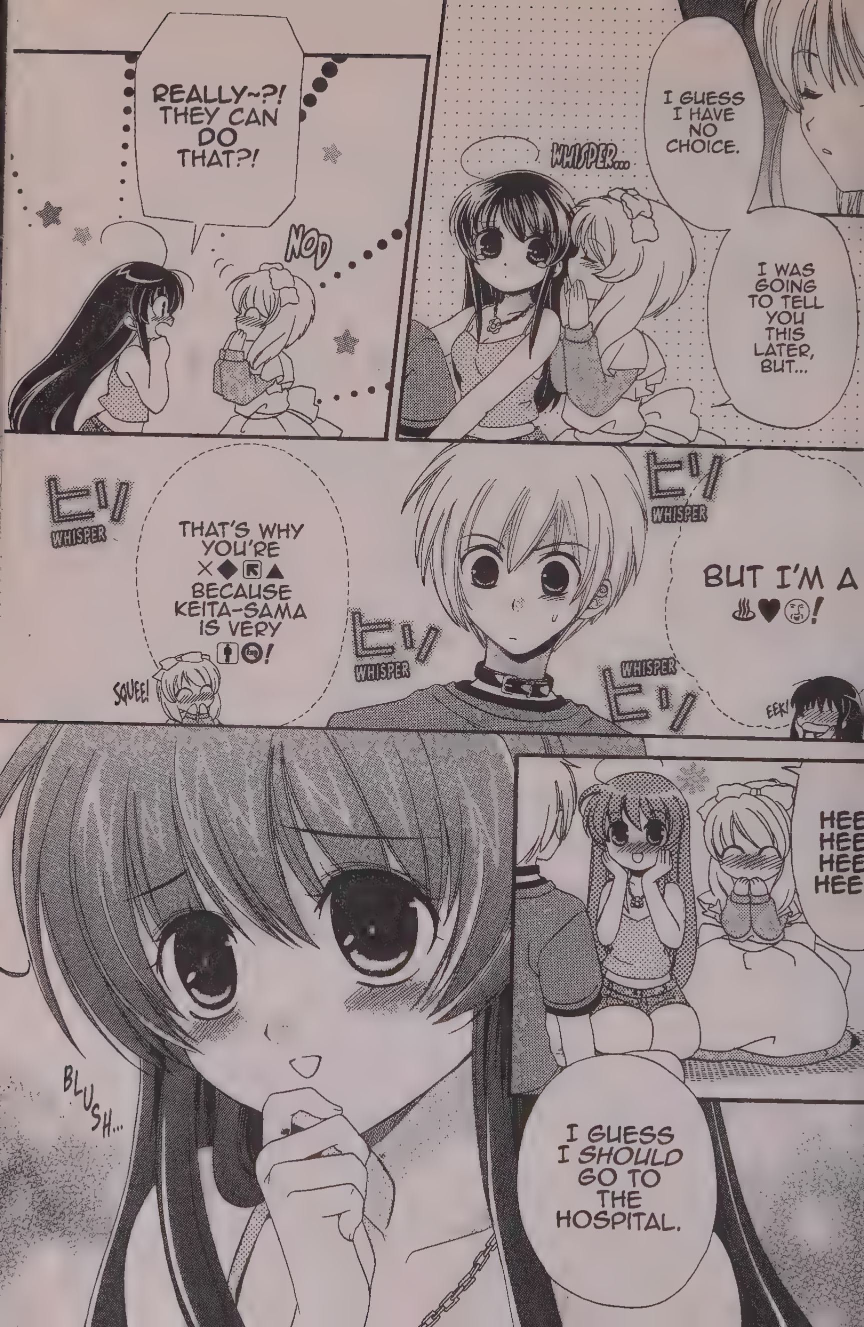
STEP.8 TOMOHANE STRIKES BACK: PART 1

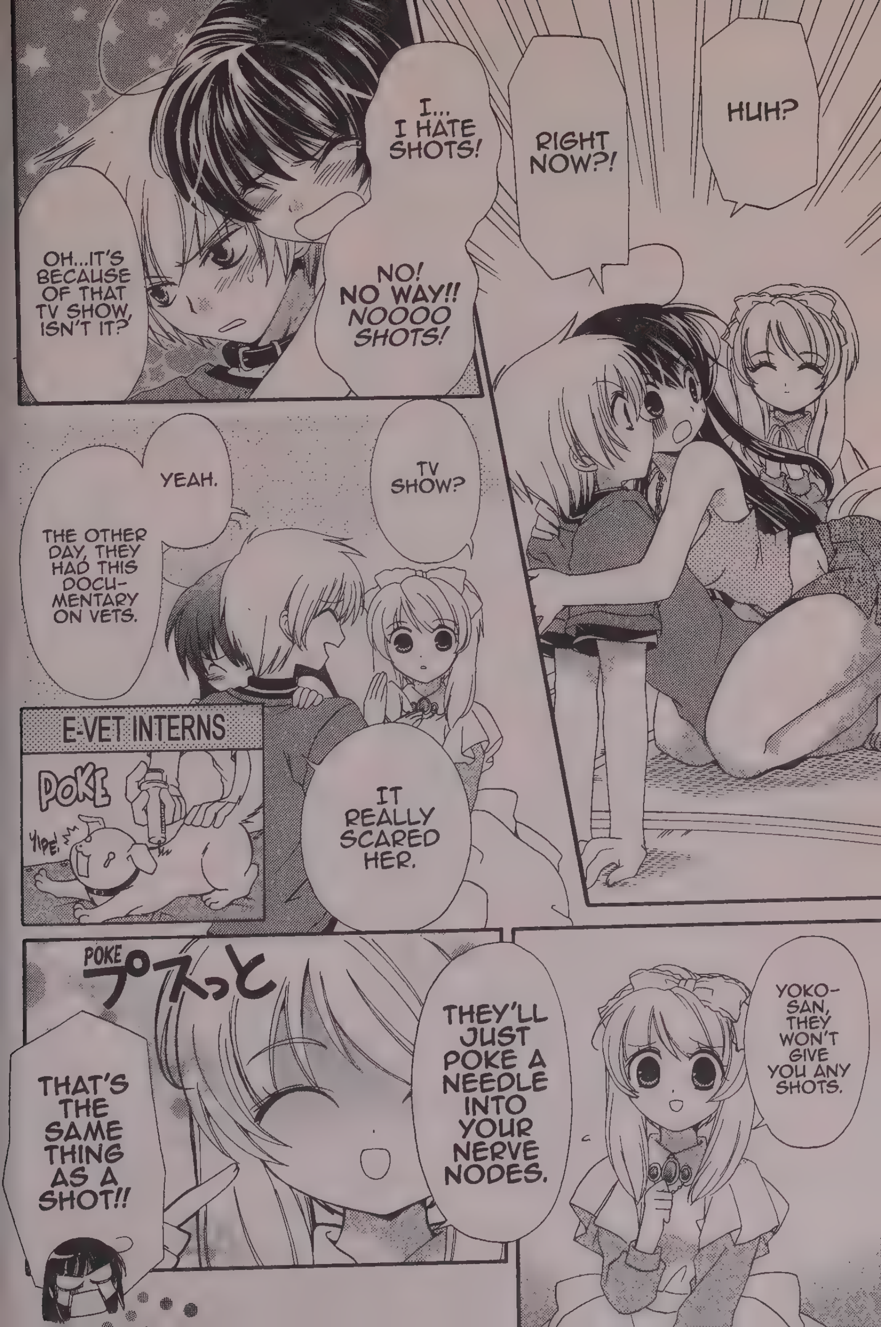

OH, WHAT A NIIIIGHT~..
BLUSH
BLUSH
KEITA WAS SO WILD LAST NIGHT THAT HE KEPT ME UP ALL NIGHT...
THAT'S WHY I'M SO SLEEPY.
HEY!
QUIT GIVING NADESHIKO-CHAN THE WRONG IDEA!!
KEITA-SAMA...
ARGH! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL!
OH MY.
THE FRIDGE BROKE, SO WE WERE UP ALL NIGHT FIXING IT.
きゅう
KYORO
SEE?
CAN YOU HEAR THE SQUAWKS?
きゅう
KYORO
HOW DARE YOU BE IN A GOOD MOOD JUST BECAUSE NADESHIKO-CHAN CAME BACK!!
I HATE YOU!!
ガブッ
CHOMP
HEY! OWW!!

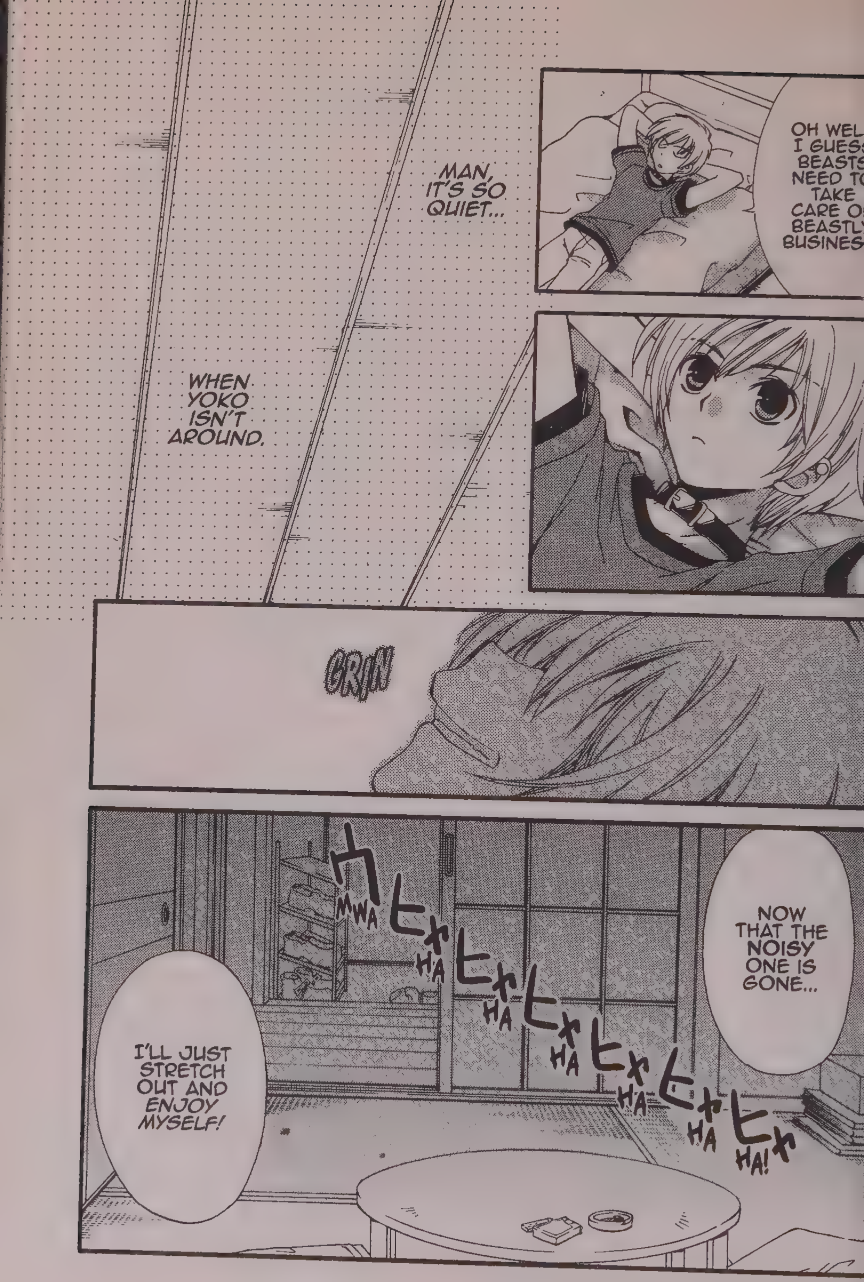

I'M SORRY TO DISTURB YOUR NAP.
FORGET HER, NADESHIKO-CHAN.
YOU DON'T NEED TO LISTEN...
TO THAT LAZY BUM.
IRKED
TOUCH
キュ
BESIDES...
I'M OVERJOYED.
YOU CAME BACK JUST TO SEE ME, RIGHT?
THWACK!

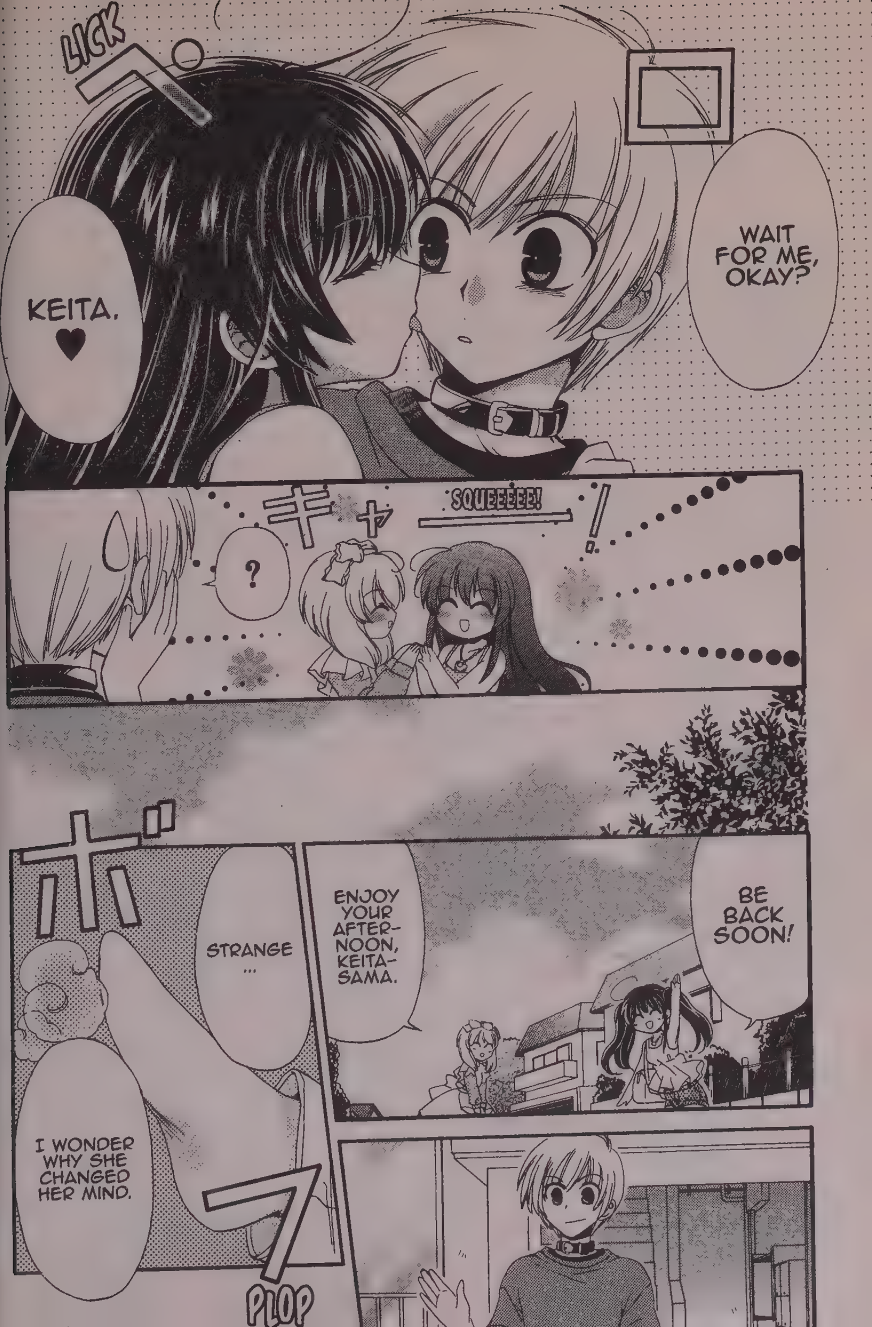

TO KEE THAT FROM HAPPENING.
THERE'S A SPECIAL AGENCY IN THE INUKAMI CLAN THAT TREATS US.
OH, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
ISN'T THAT THE WORLD CREATION CLINIC?
YES.
ALL INUKAMI MUST VISIT THE CLINIC ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS...
AND GET VACCINATIONS AND OVERALL HEALTH CHECKUPS...
BY ORDER OF THE CLAN'S LEADER.
WORLD CREATION CLINIC
I'M GOIN IN FO MY EXAMINATIO NOW.
BUT, YOKO-SAN, YOU HAVEN'T GONE YET, HAVE YOU?
NNN...
NO.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN REGISTERED YET.
IF YOU'D LIKE...
WE CAN GO TOGETHER.

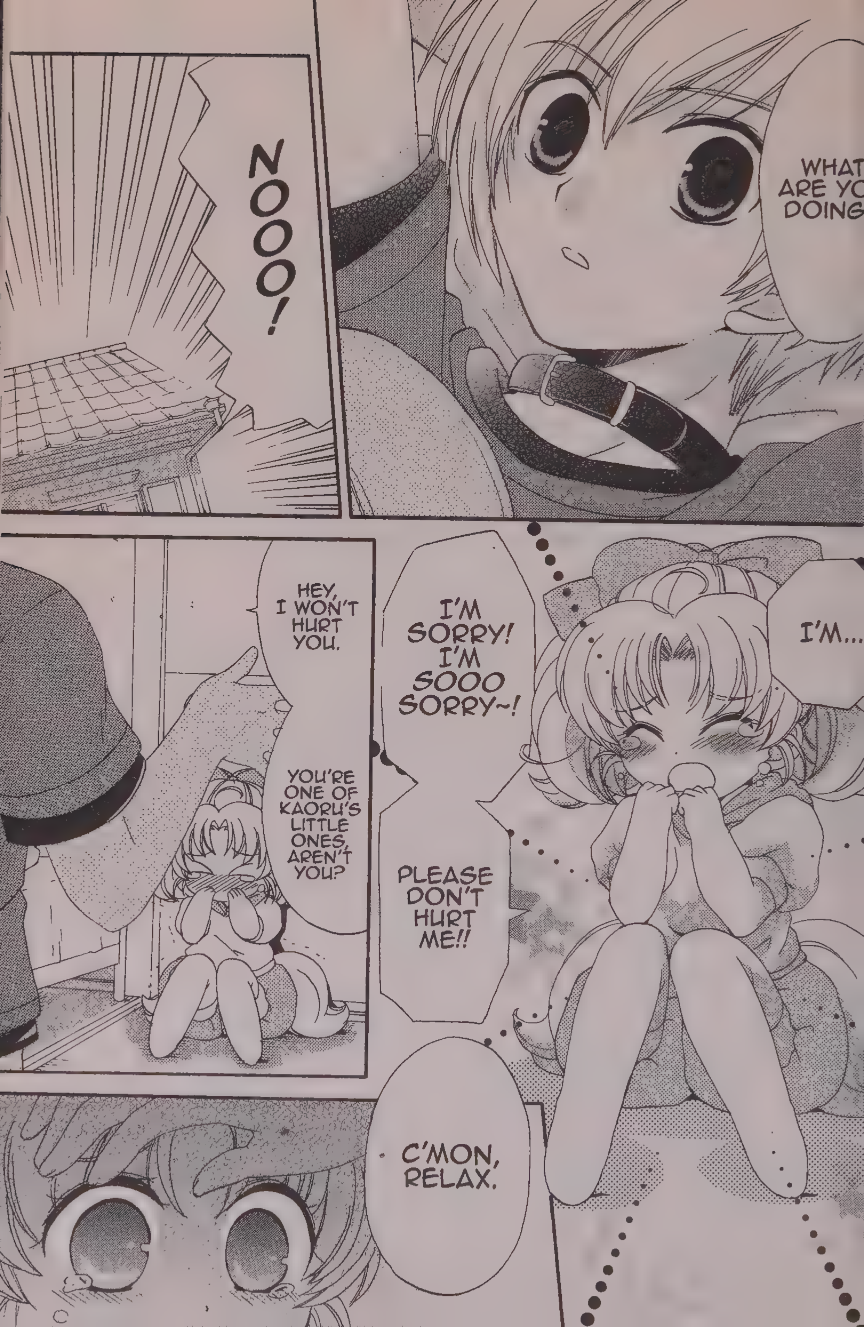

SO.
WHY'D YOU COME?
う～
GROWL
WELL...
I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU WANTED TO GO FOR YOUR CHECK-UP.
WHAT KIND OF CHECK-UP?
THEY'RE GOING TO SEE IF YOU HAVE ANY DISEASES.
YOU SHOULD GET CHECKED FOR RABIES.
SQUEEZE
POUNCE
ガブ
CHOMP
STUPID KEITA!
OWW!
ガブ
CHOMP
ガブ
CHOMP
STUPID, STUPID!
GYARGH! CUT IT OUT, YOU RABID DOG!!
IT'S RARE, BUT WE HUMANOID SPIRITS CAN GET SICK.
AND WHEN WE DO, IT CAN BE LETHAL.

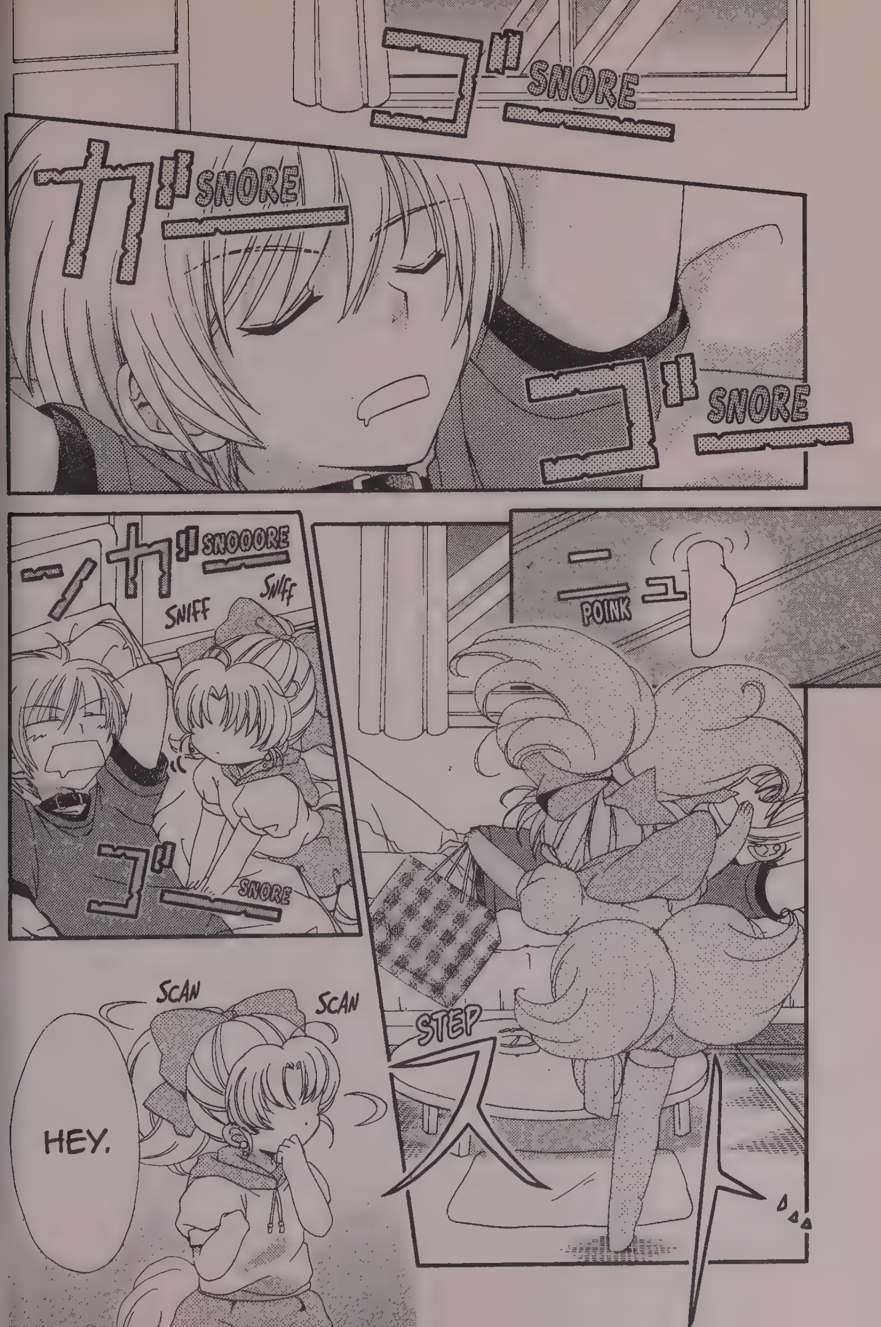

I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE.
I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU THIS LATER, BUT...
WHISPER...
REALLY~?! THEY CAN DO THAT?!
NOD
ヒソ
WHISPER
BUT I'M A ♨♥☺!
ヒソ
WHISPER
EEK!
ヒソ
WHISPER
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ×◆▣▲ BECAUSE KEITA-SAMA IS VERY 🚹☺!
ヒソ
WHISPER
SQUEE!
HEE HEE HEE HEE
I GUESS I *SHOULD* GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
BLUSH...

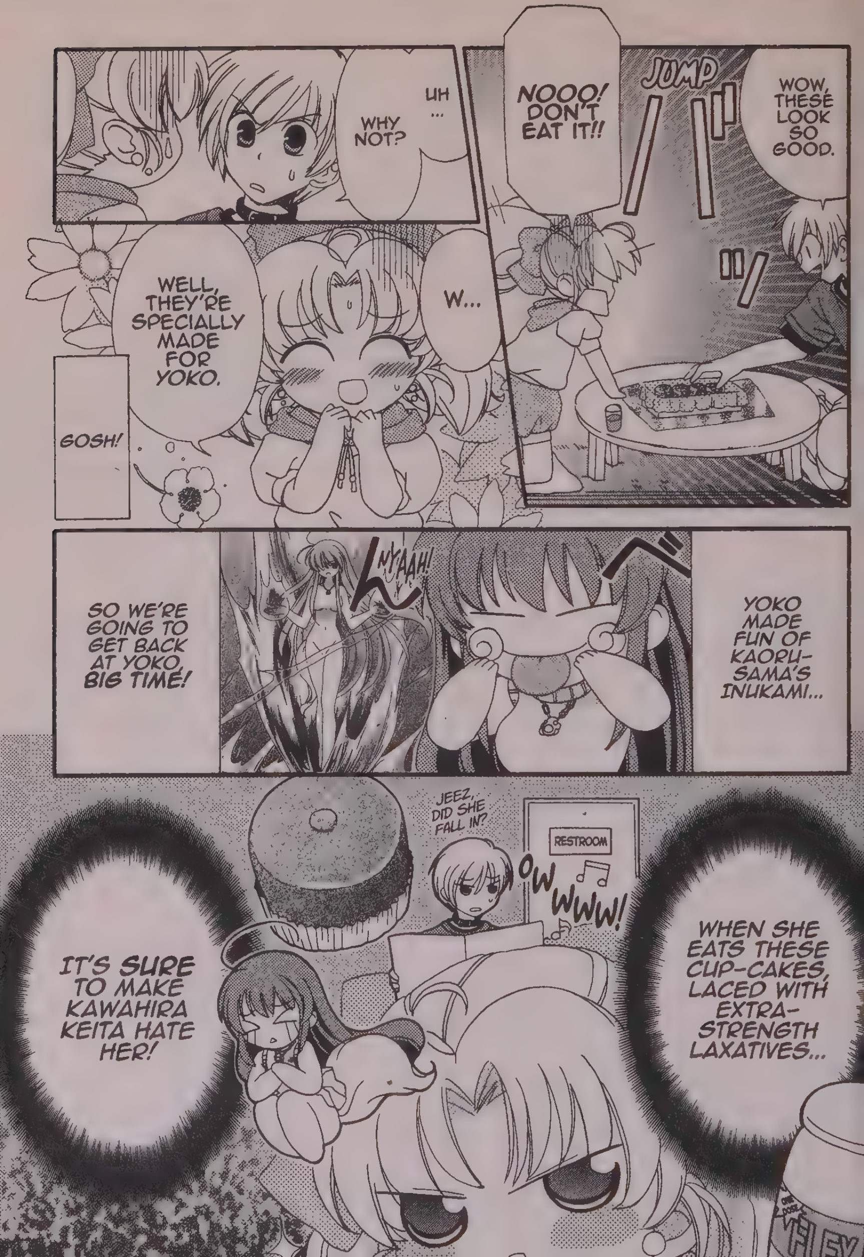

HUH?
RIGHT NOW?!
I... I HATE SHOTS!
NO! NO WAY!! NOOOO SHOTS!
OH...IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT TV SHOW, ISN'T IT?
TV SHOW?
YEAH.
THE OTHER DAY, THEY HAD THIS DOCUMENTARY ON VETS.
E-VET INTERNS
POKE
YIPE!
IT REALLY SCARED HER.
YOKO-SAN, THEY WON'T GIVE YOU ANY SHOTS.
THEY'LL JUST POKE A NEEDLE INTO YOUR NERVE NODES.
POKE
プスっと
THAT'S THE SAME THING AS A SHOT!!

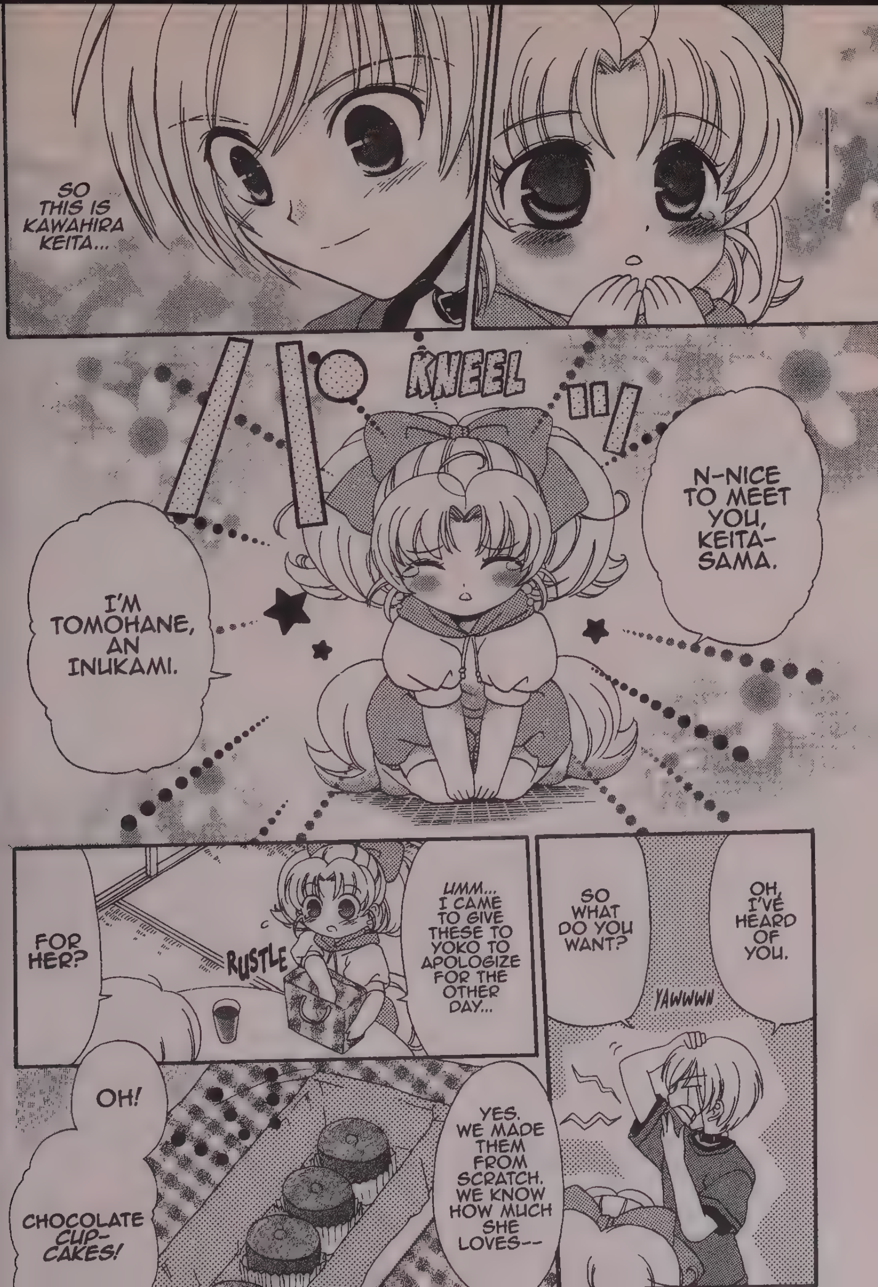

OH WEL
I GUESS
BEASTS
NEED TO
TAKE
CARE O
BEASTL
BUSINES
MAN, IT'S SO QUIET...
WHEN YOKO ISN'T AROUND.
GRIN
NOW THAT THE NOISY ONE IS GONE...
I'LL JUST STRETCH OUT AND ENJOY MYSELF!
ウ MWA ヒャ HA ヒャ HA ヒャ HA ヒャ HA ヒャ HA ヒャ HA!

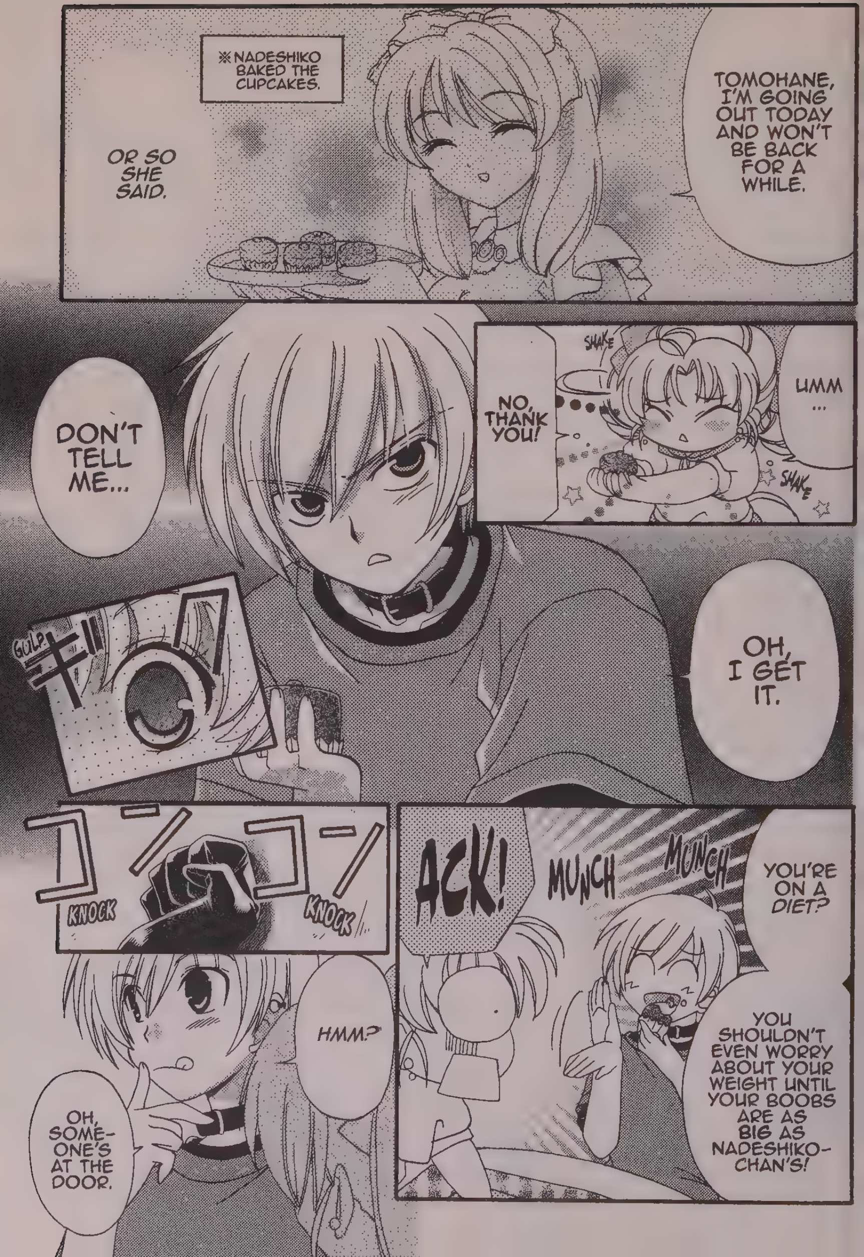

LICK
WAIT FOR ME, OKAY?
KEITA. ♥
SQUEEEEE!
キャ
!
?
BE BACK SOON!
ENJOY YOUR AFTERNOON, KEITA-SAMA.
STRANGE ...
I WONDER WHY SHE CHANGED HER MIND.
ボ
PLOP

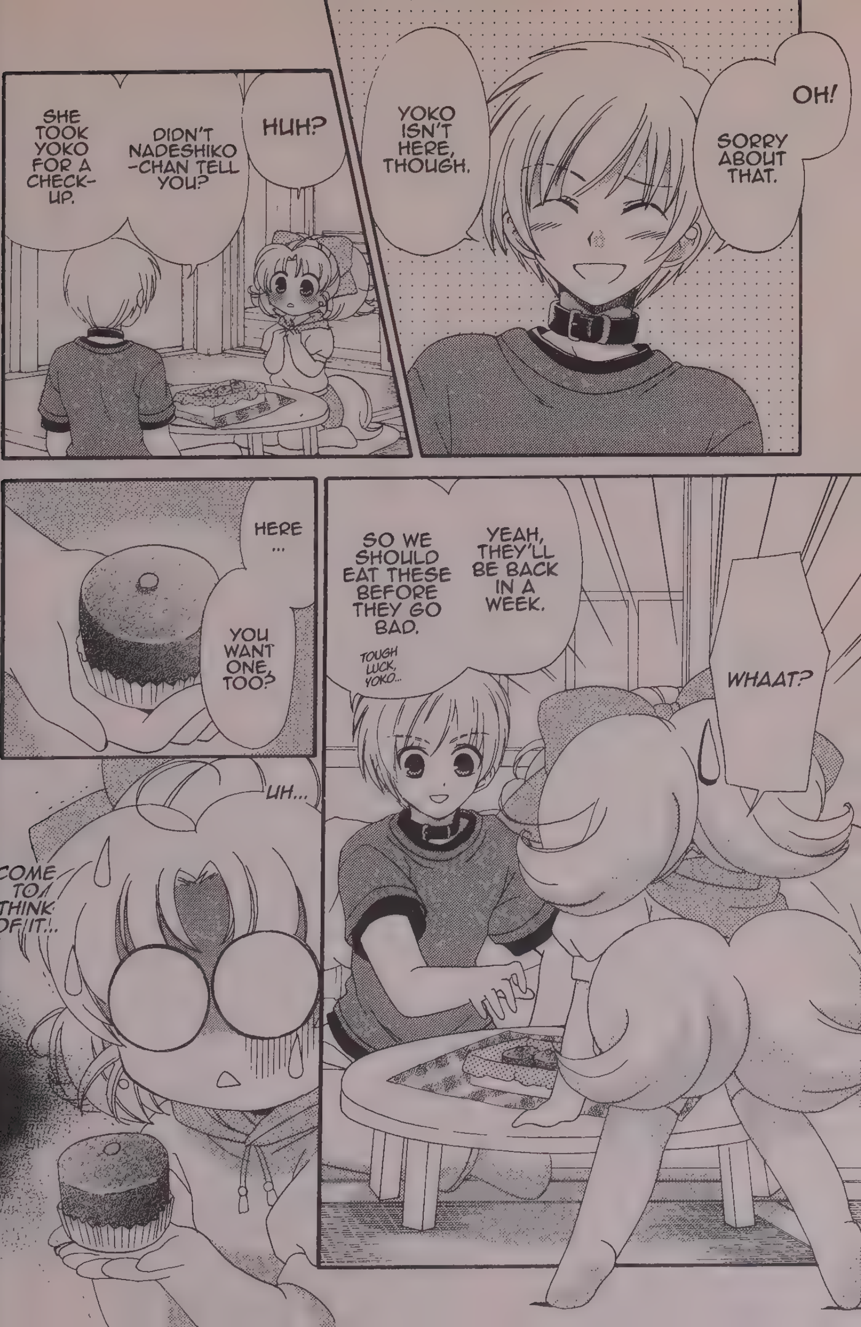

WHAT ARE YO DOING
NOOO!
I'M...
I'M SORRY! I'M SOOO SORRY~!
PLEASE DON'T HURT ME!!
HEY, I WON'T HURT YOU.
YOU'RE ONE OF KAORU'S LITTLE ONES, AREN'T YOU?
C'MON, RELAX.

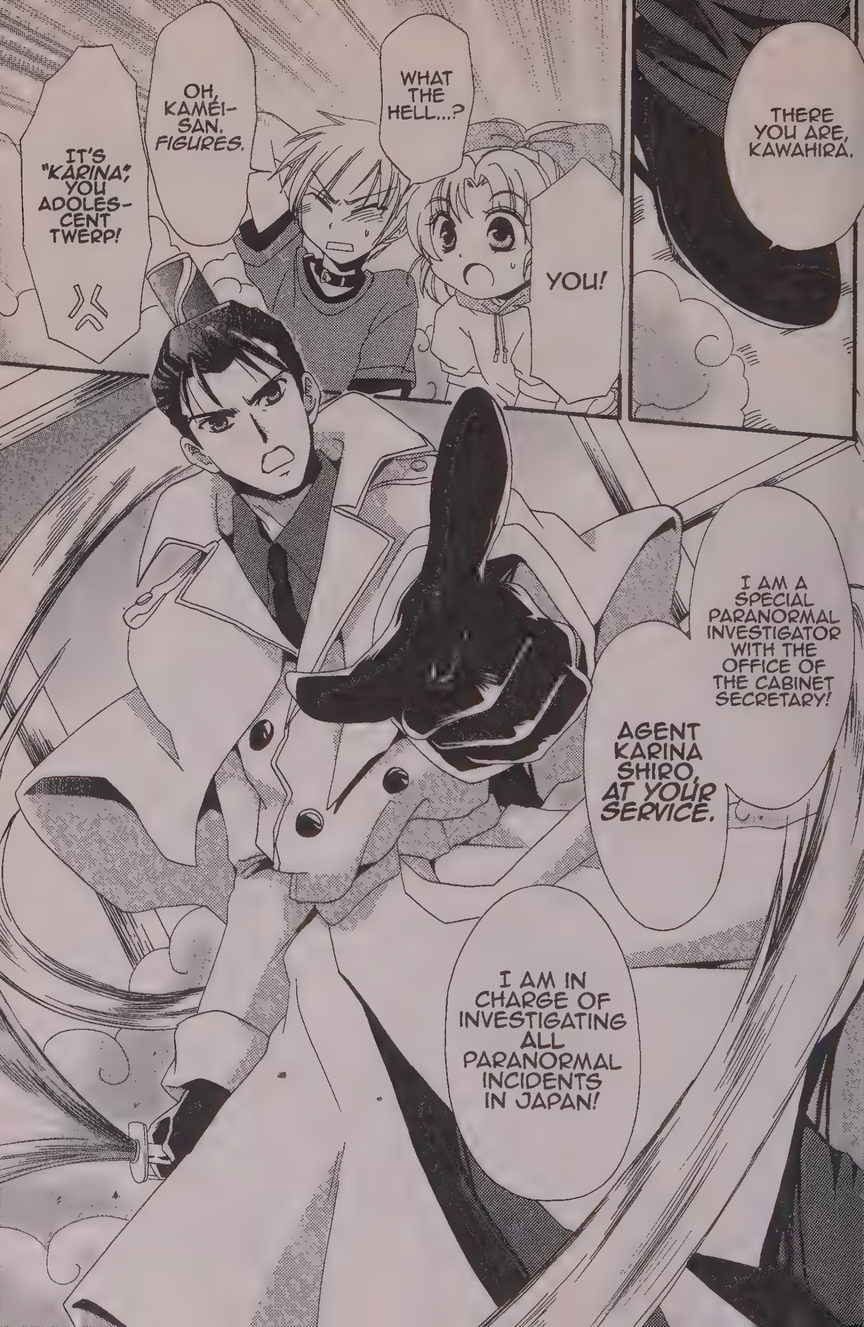

ゴ SNORE
ガ SNORE
ゴ SNORE
ニュ POINK
ーンガ SNOOORE
SNIFF
SNIFF
ゴ SNORE
ス STEP
SCAN
SCAN
HEY.

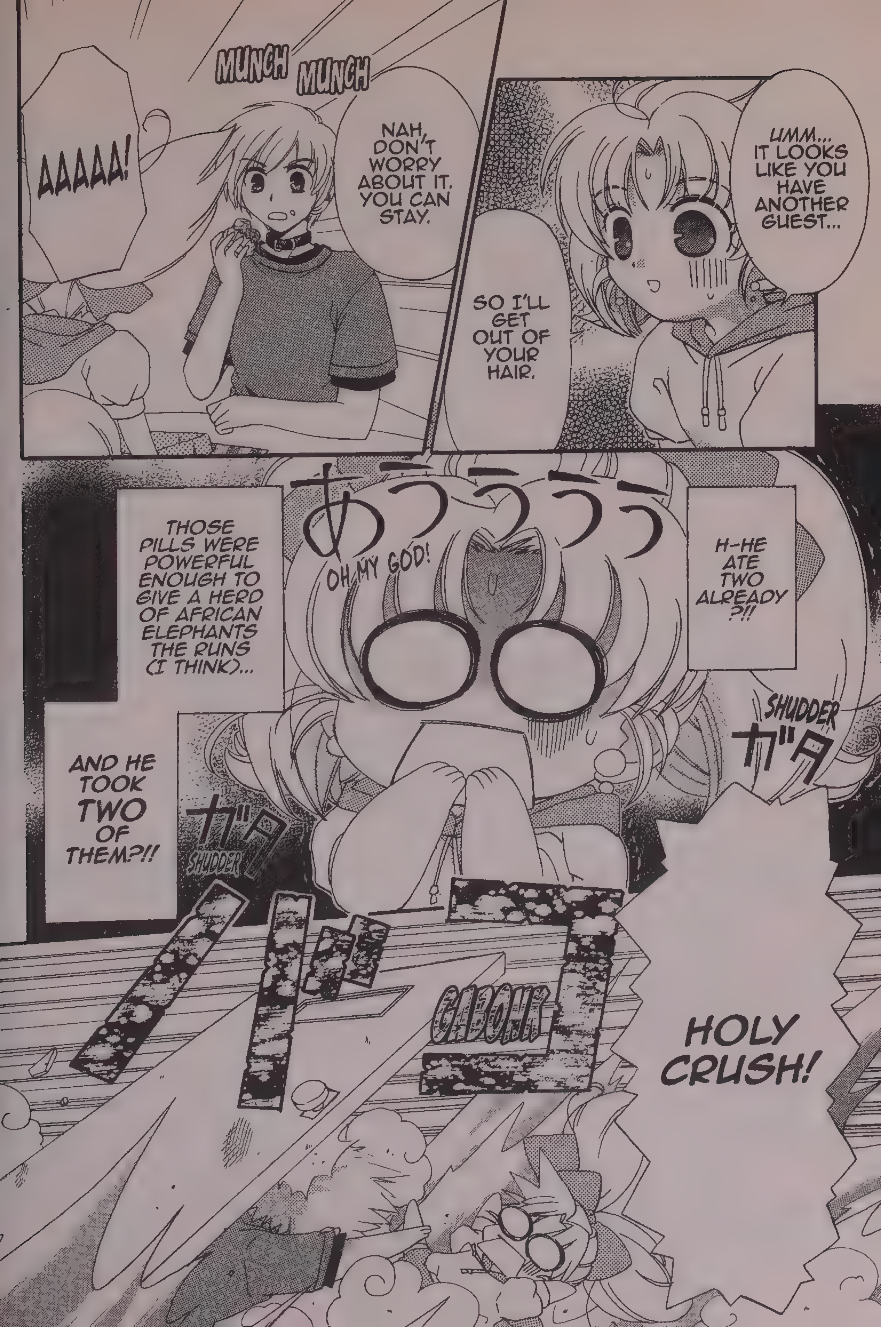

WOW, THESE LOOK SO GOOD.
JUMP
NOOO! DON'T EAT IT!!
UH ...
WHY NOT?
W...
WELL, THEY'RE SPECIALLY MADE FOR YOKO.
GOSH!
YOKO MADE FUN OF KAORU-SAMA'S INUKAMI...
NYAAH!
SO WE'RE GOING TO GET BACK AT YOKO, BIG TIME!
WHEN SHE EATS THESE CUP-CAKES, LACED WITH EXTRA-STRENGTH LAXATIVES...
JEEZ, DID SHE FALL IN?
RESTROOM
OWWWW!
IT'S SURE TO MAKE KAWAHIRA KEITA HATE HER!

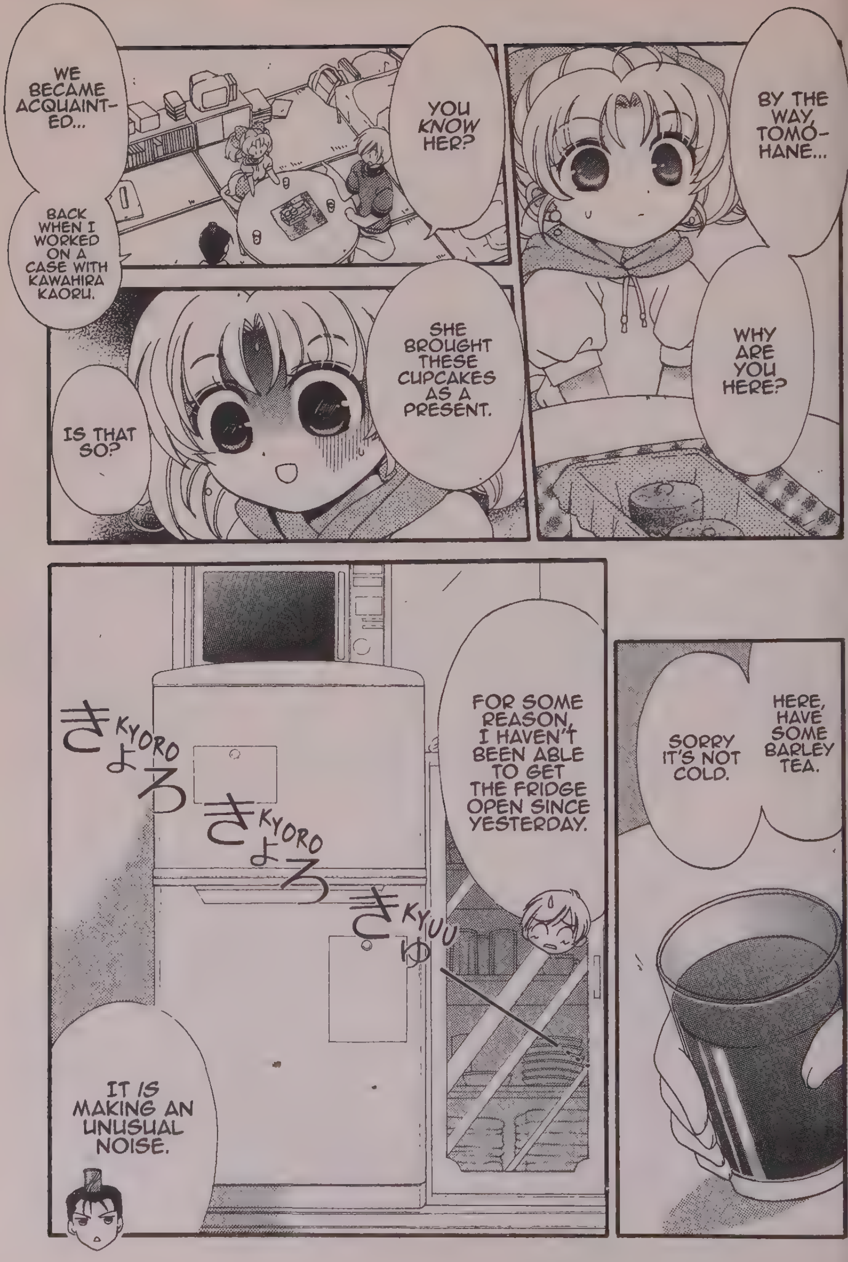

!...
SO THIS IS KAWAHIRA KEITA...
KNEEL
N-NICE TO MEET YOU, KEITA-SAMA.
I'M TOMOHANE, AN INUKAMI.
OH, I'VE HEARD OF YOU.
YAWWWN
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?
UMM... I CAME TO GIVE THESE TO YOKO TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE OTHER DAY...
RUSTLE
FOR HER?
YES. WE MADE THEM FROM SCRATCH. WE KNOW HOW MUCH SHE LOVES--
OH!
CHOCOLATE CUP-CAKES!

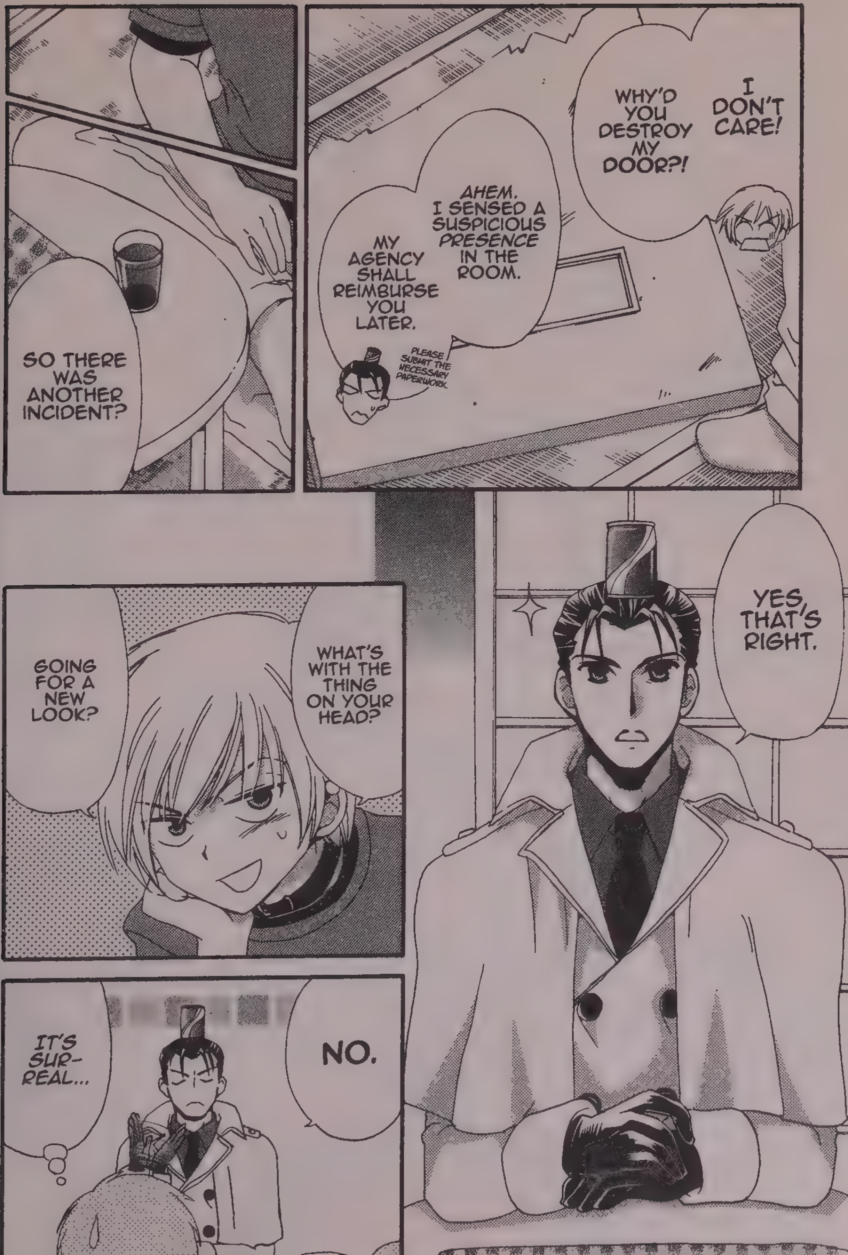

TOMOHANE, I'M GOING OUT TODAY AND WON'T BE BACK FOR A WHILE.
※NADESHIKO BAKED THE CUPCAKES.
OR SO SHE SAID.
UMM ...
SHAKE
NO, THANK YOU!
SHAKE
OH, I GET IT.
DON'T TELL ME...
GULP
YOU'RE ON A DIET?
MUNCH
MUNCH
ACK!
YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN WORRY ABOUT YOUR WEIGHT UNTIL YOUR BOOBS ARE AS BIG AS NADESHIKO-CHAN'S!
コン
KNOCK
コン
KNOCK
HMM?
OH, SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR.

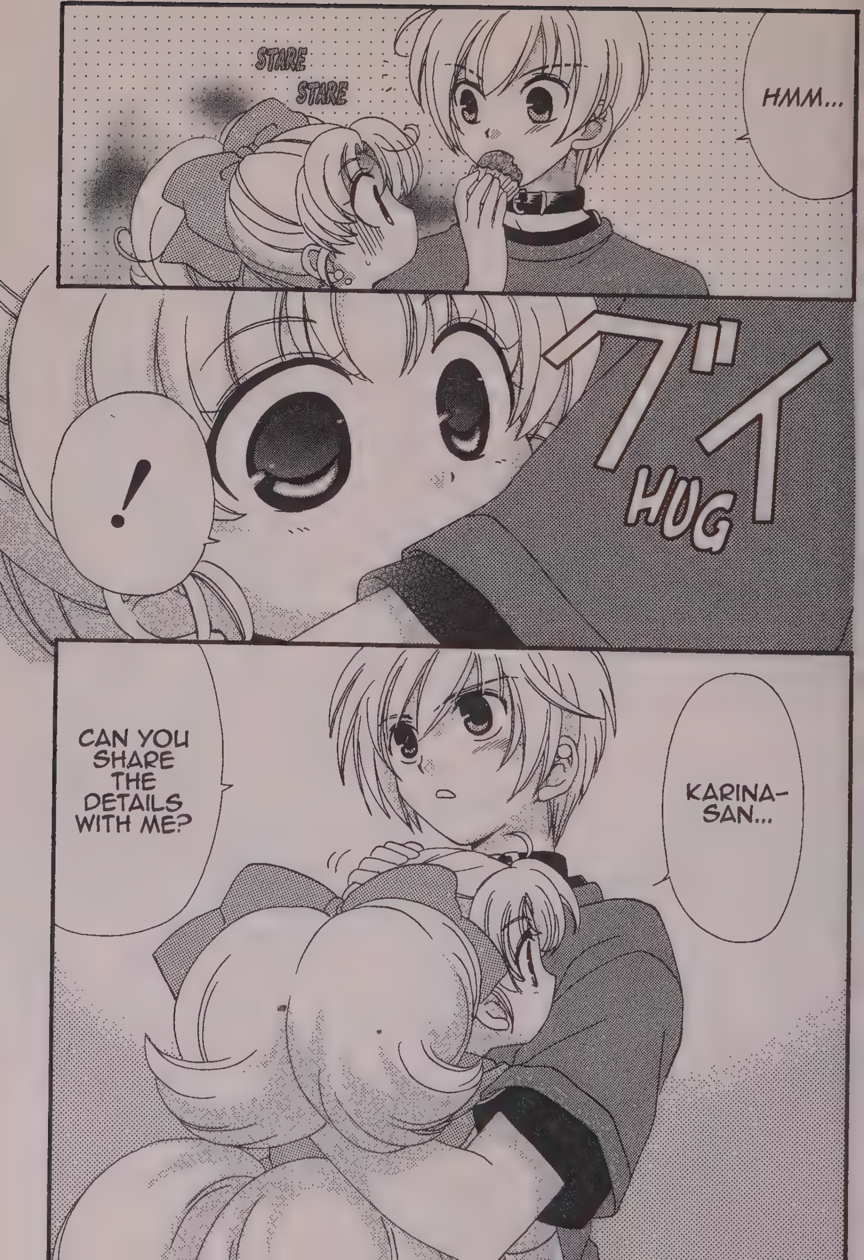

OH!
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
YOKO ISN'T HERE, THOUGH.
HUH?
DIDN'T NADESHIKO-CHAN TELL YOU?
SHE TOOK YOKO FOR A CHECK-UP.
WHAAT?
YEAH, THEY'LL BE BACK IN A WEEK.
SO WE SHOULD EAT THESE BEFORE THEY GO BAD.
TOUGH LUCK, YOKO...
HERE...
YOU WANT ONE, TOO?
UH...
COME TO THINK OF IT...

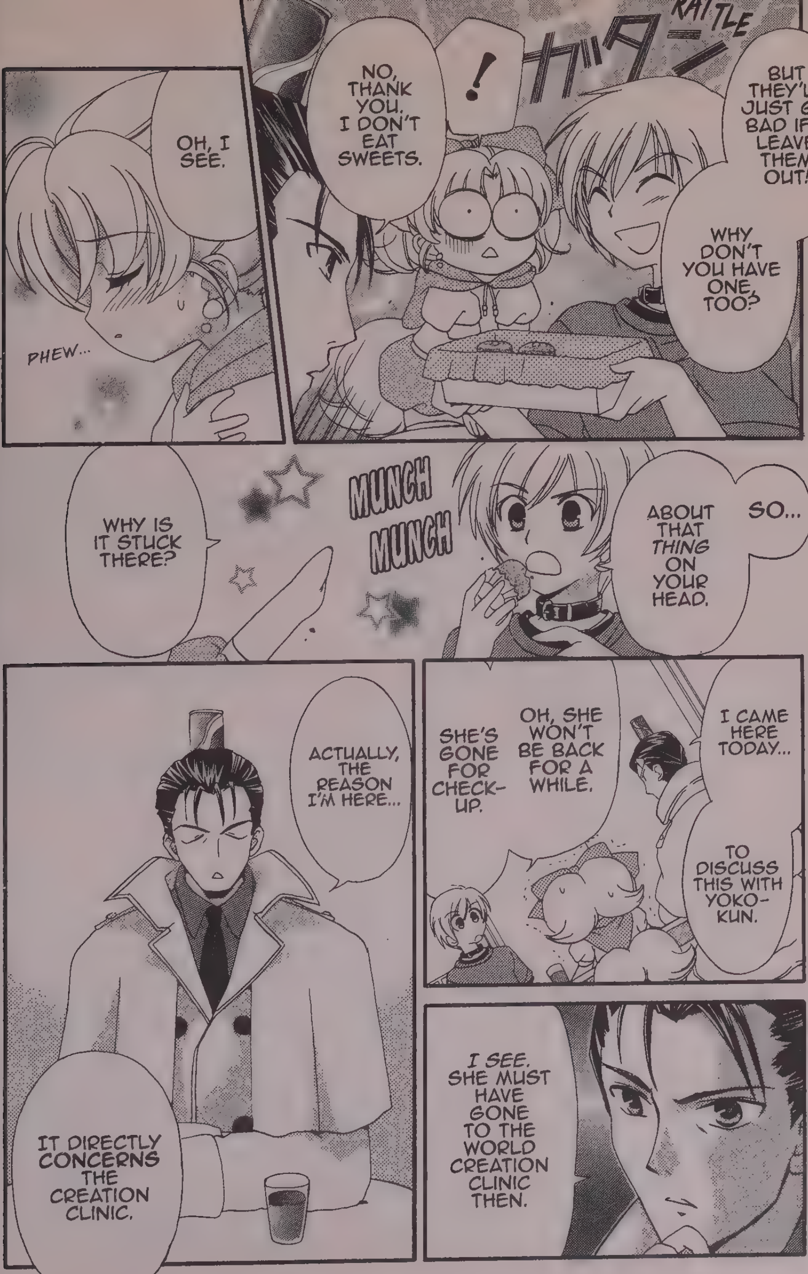

THERE YOU ARE, KAWAHIRA.
YOU!
WHAT THE HELL...?
OH, KAMEI-SAN. FIGURES.
IT'S "KARINA", YOU ADOLESCENT TWERP!
I AM A SPECIAL PARANORMAL INVESTIGATOR WITH THE OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY!
AGENT KARINA SHIRO, AT YOUR SERVICE.
I AM IN CHARGE OF INVESTIGATING ALL PARANORMAL INCIDENTS IN JAPAN!

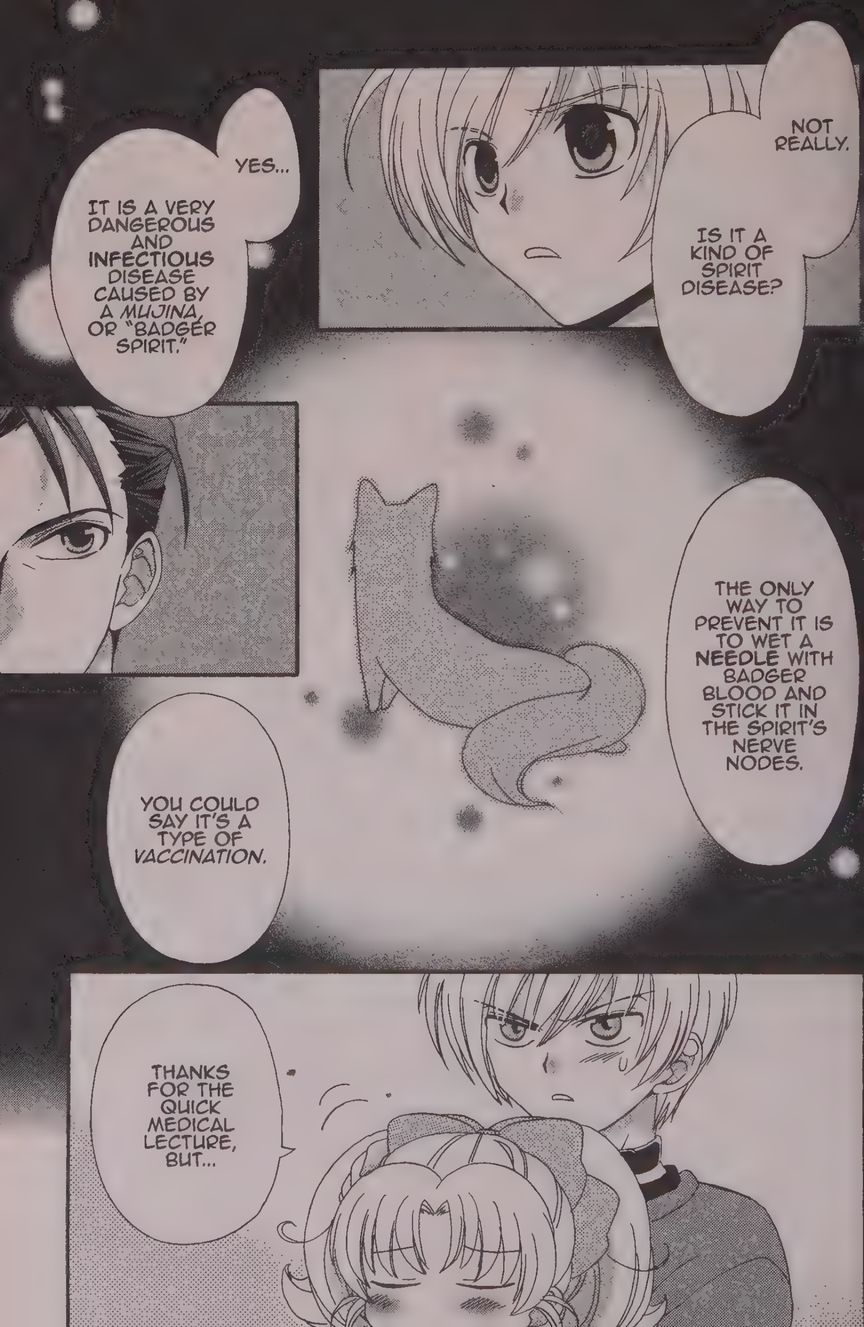

UMM... IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE ANOTHER GUEST...
SO I'LL GET OUT OF YOUR HAIR.
MUNCH MUNCH
NAH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. YOU CAN STAY.
AAAAA!
あうううう
OH MY GOD!
H-HE ATE TWO ALREADY?!!
THOSE PILLS WERE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO GIVE A HERD OF AFRICAN ELEPHANTS THE RUNS (I THINK)...
SHUDDER ガタ
AND HE TOOK TWO OF THEM?!!
ガタ SHUDDER
HOLY CRUSH!
GABONK

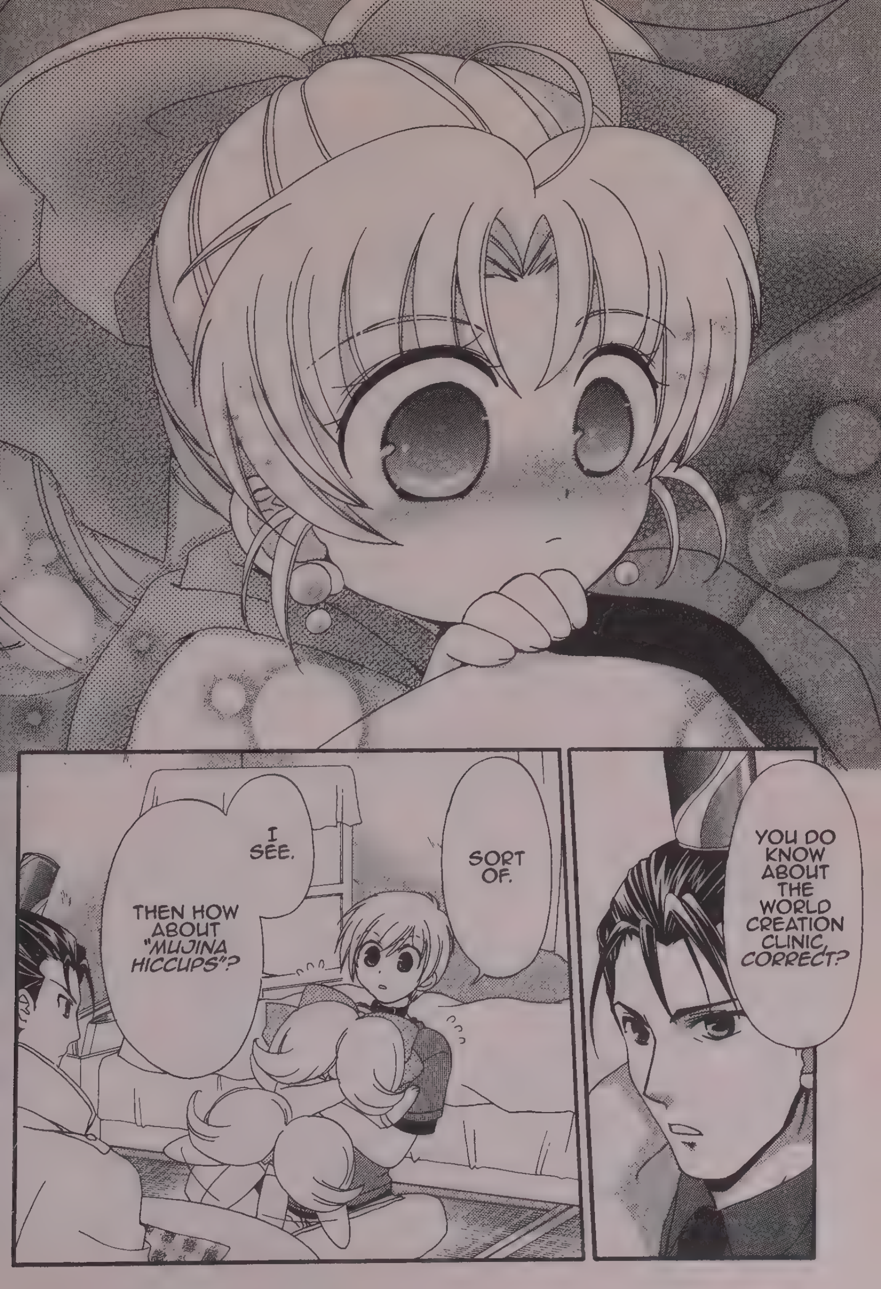

YOU KNOW HER?
WE BECAME ACQUAINTED...
BACK WHEN I WORKED ON A CASE WITH KAWAHIRA KAORU.
SHE BROUGHT THESE CUPCAKES AS A PRESENT.
IS THAT SO?
BY THE WAY, TOMOHANE...
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
HERE, HAVE SOME BARLEY TEA.
SORRY IT'S NOT COLD.
FOR SOME REASON, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET THE FRIDGE OPEN SINCE YESTERDAY.
きょろ KYORO
きょろ KYORO
きゅ KYUU
IT *IS* MAKING AN UNUSUAL NOISE.

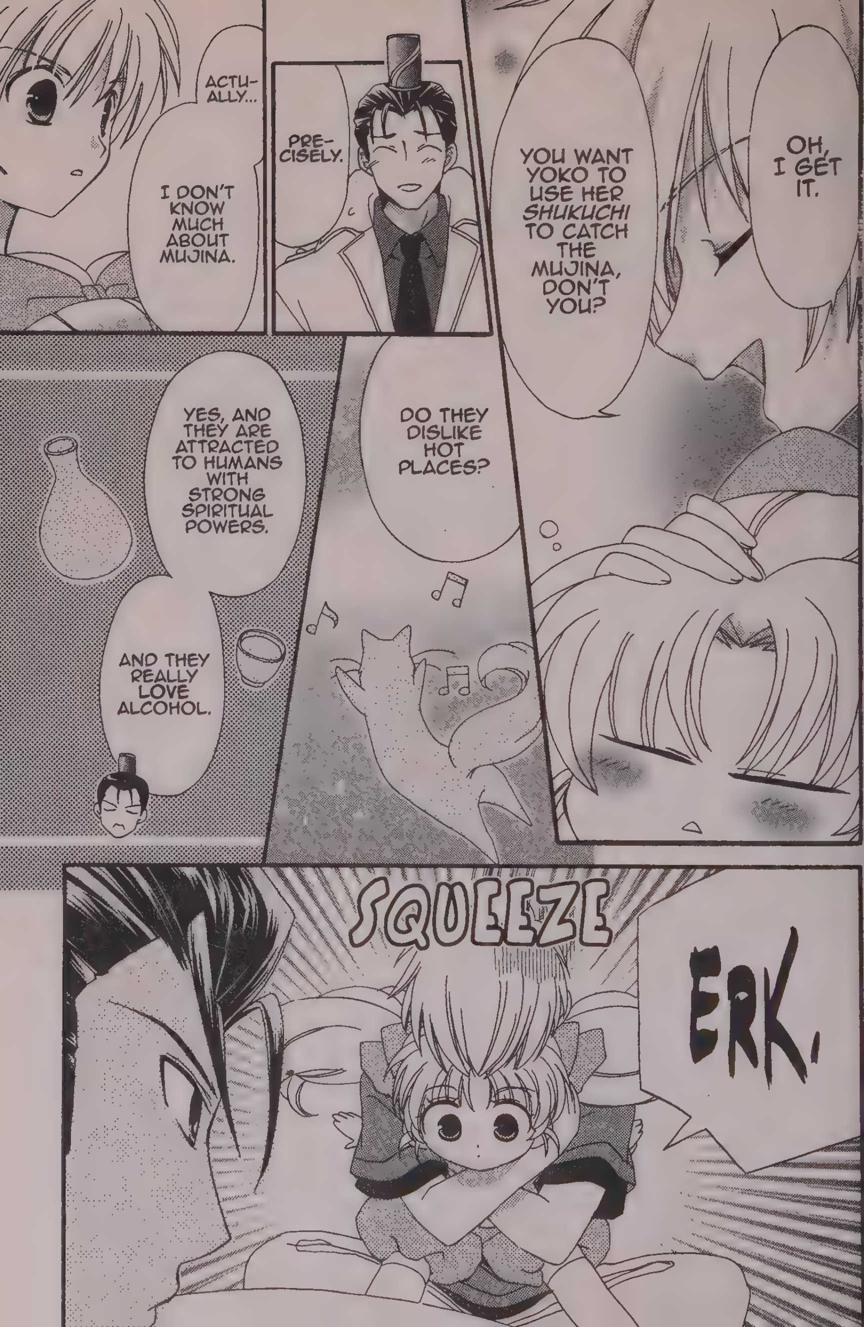

I DON'T CARE!
WHY'D YOU DESTROY MY DOOR?!
AHEM. I SENSED A SUSPICIOUS *PRESENCE* IN THE ROOM.
MY AGENCY SHALL REIMBURSE YOU LATER.
PLEASE SUBMIT THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK.
SO THERE WAS ANOTHER INCIDENT?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
WHAT'S WITH THE THING ON YOUR HEAD?
GOING FOR A NEW LOOK?
NO.
IT'S SURREAL...

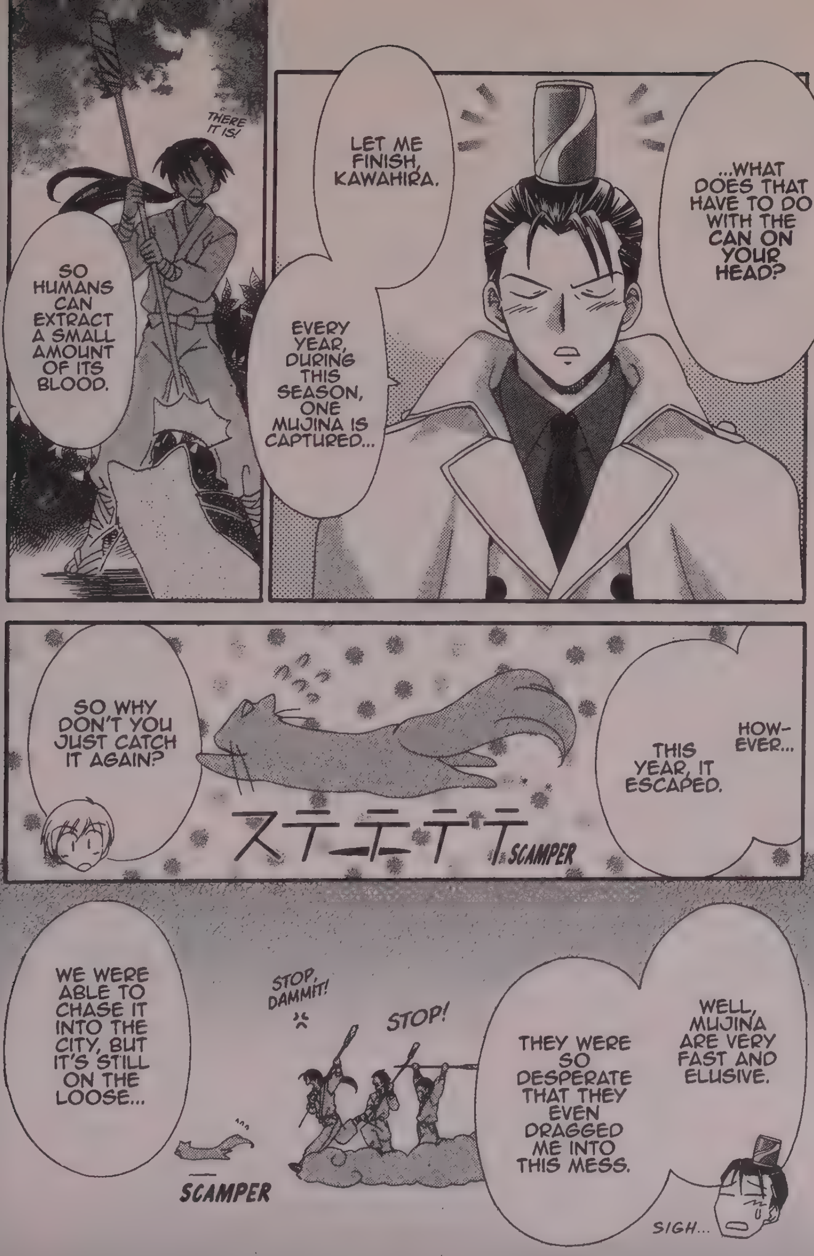

HMM...
STARE
STARE
!
ギュ
HUG
KARINA-SAN...
CAN YOU SHARE THE DETAILS WITH ME?

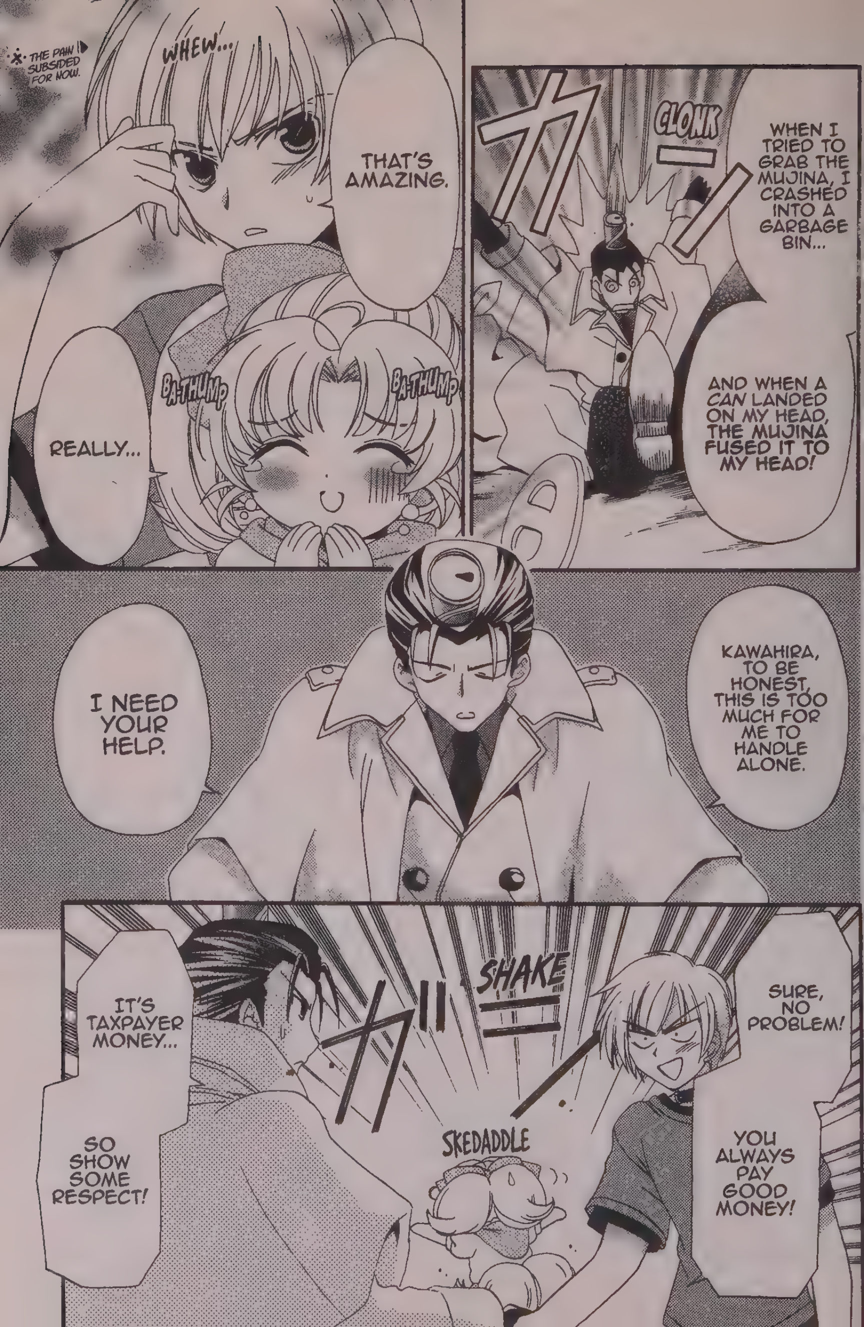

RATTLE
BUT THEY'LL JUST GO BAD IF I LEAVE THEM OUT!
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE ONE, TOO?
!
NO, THANK YOU. I DON'T EAT SWEETS.
OH, I SEE.
PHEW...
SO...
ABOUT THAT *THING* ON YOUR HEAD.
MUNCH MUNCH
WHY IS IT STUCK THERE?
I CAME HERE TODAY...
TO DISCUSS THIS WITH YOKO-KUN.
OH, SHE WON'T BE BACK FOR A WHILE.
SHE'S GONE FOR CHECK-UP.
I SEE. SHE MUST HAVE GONE TO THE WORLD CREATION CLINIC THEN.
ACTUALLY, THE REASON I'M HERE...
IT DIRECTLY CONCERNS THE CREATION CLINIC.

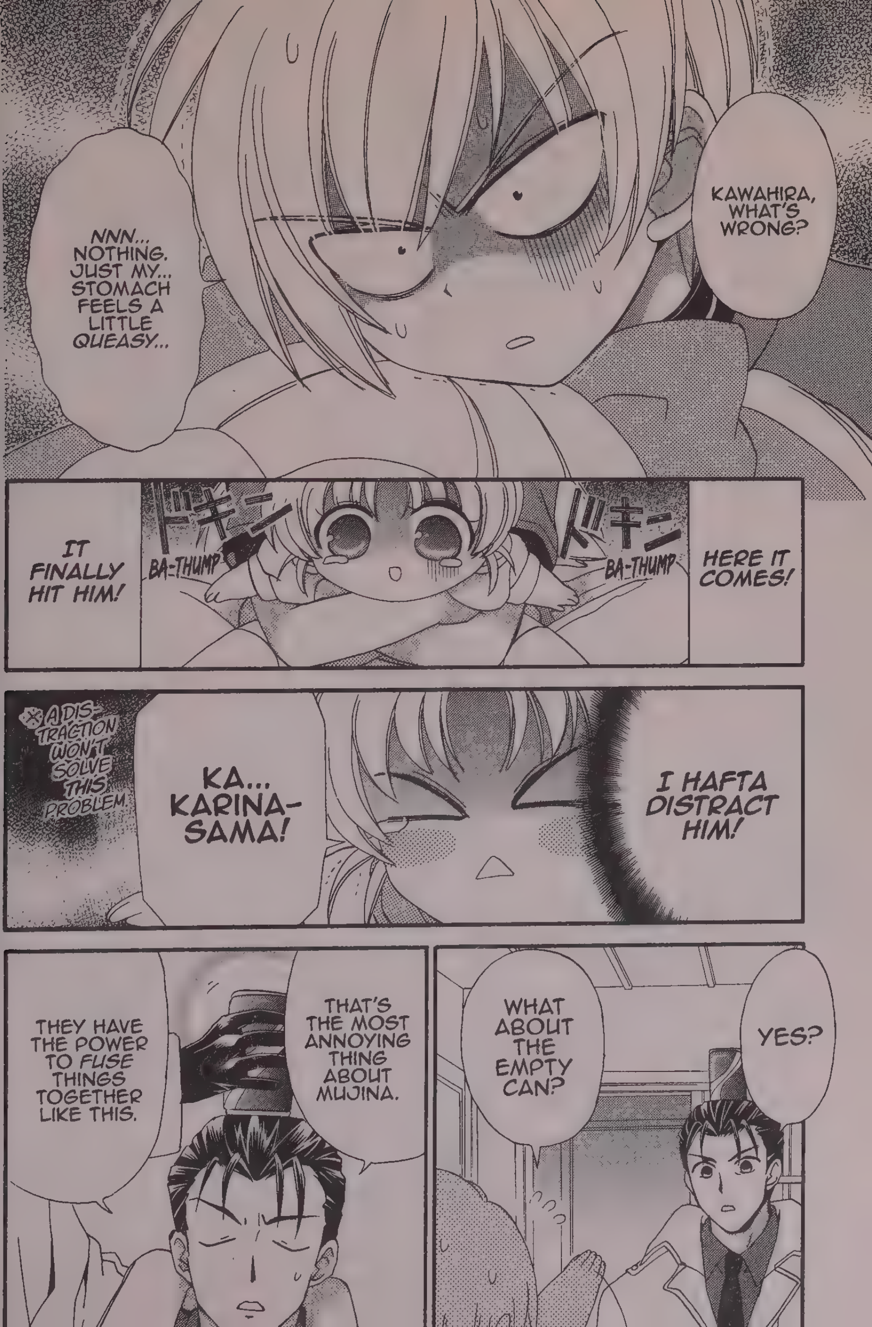

NOT REALLY.
IS IT A KIND OF SPIRIT DISEASE?
YES...
IT IS A VERY DANGEROUS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE CAUSED BY A *MUJINA*, OR "BADGER SPIRIT."
THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT IT IS TO WET A NEEDLE WITH BADGER BLOOD AND STICK IT IN THE SPIRIT'S NERVE NODES.
YOU COULD SAY IT'S A TYPE OF *VACCINATION*.
THANKS FOR THE QUICK MEDICAL LECTURE, BUT...

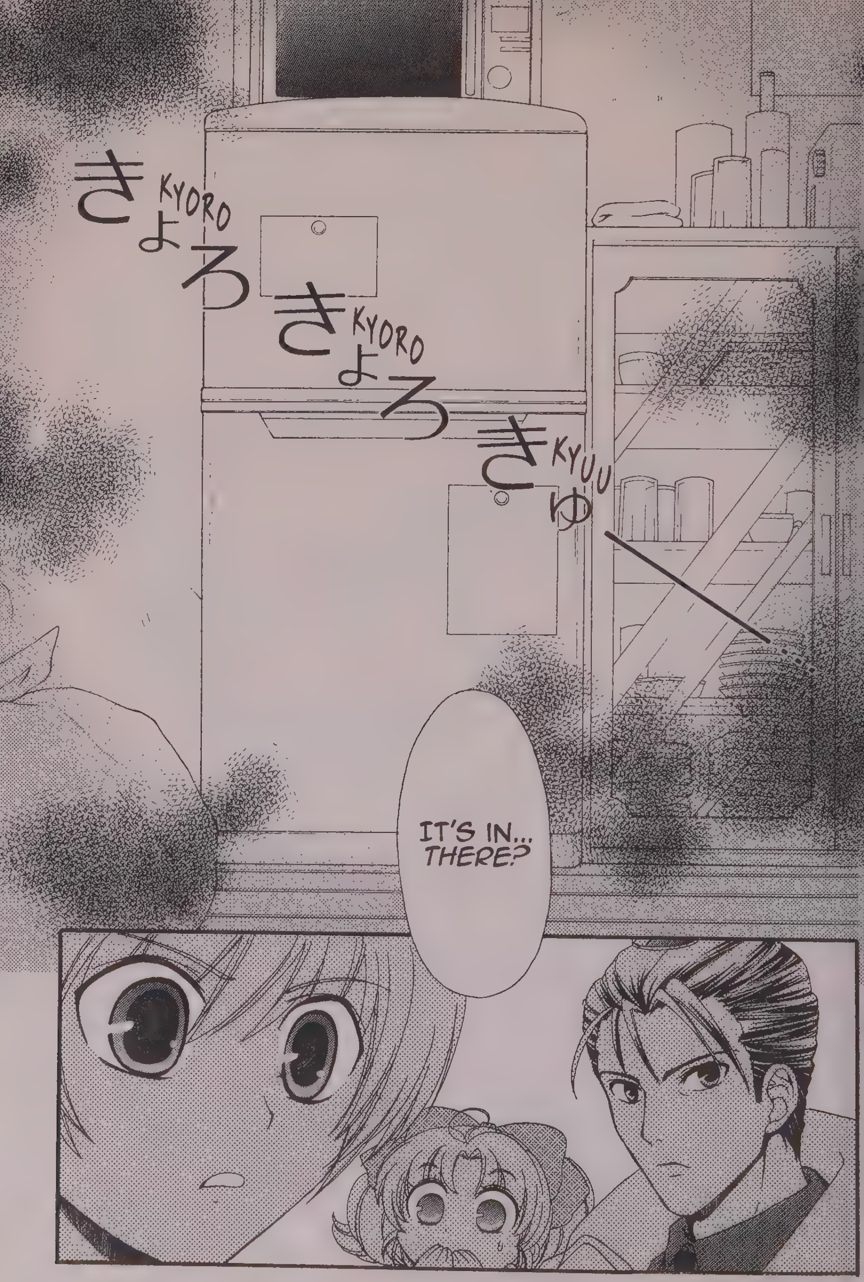

YOU DO KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD CREATION CLINIC, CORRECT?
SORT OF.
I SEE.
THEN HOW ABOUT "MUJINA HICCUPS"?

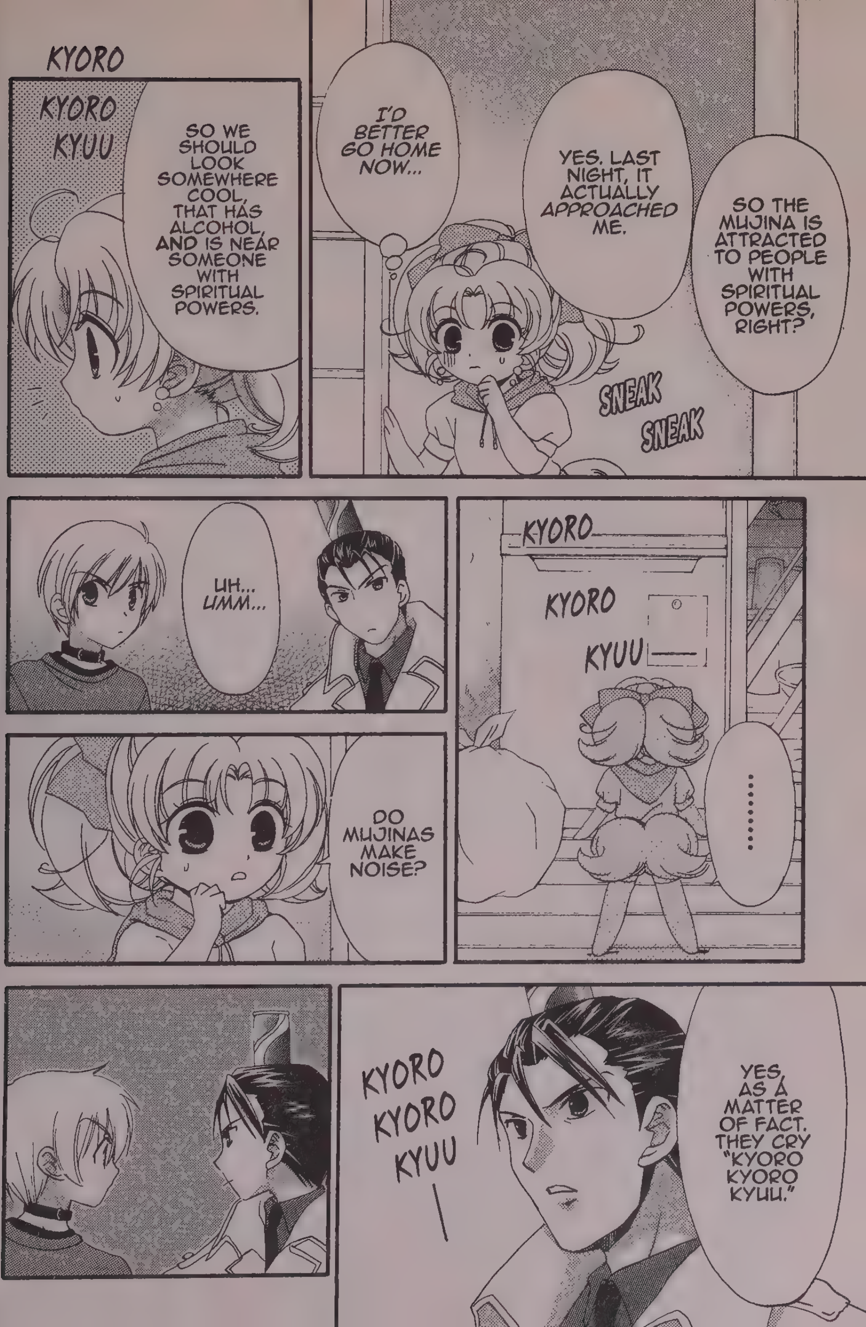

OH, I GET IT.
YOU WANT YOKO TO USE HER *SHUKUCHI* TO CATCH THE MUJINA, DON'T YOU?
PRECISELY.
ACTUALLY...
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT MUJINA.
DO THEY DISLIKE HOT PLACES?
YES, AND THEY ARE ATTRACTED TO HUMANS WITH STRONG SPIRITUAL POWERS.
AND THEY REALLY LOVE ALCOHOL.
ERK.
SQUEEZE

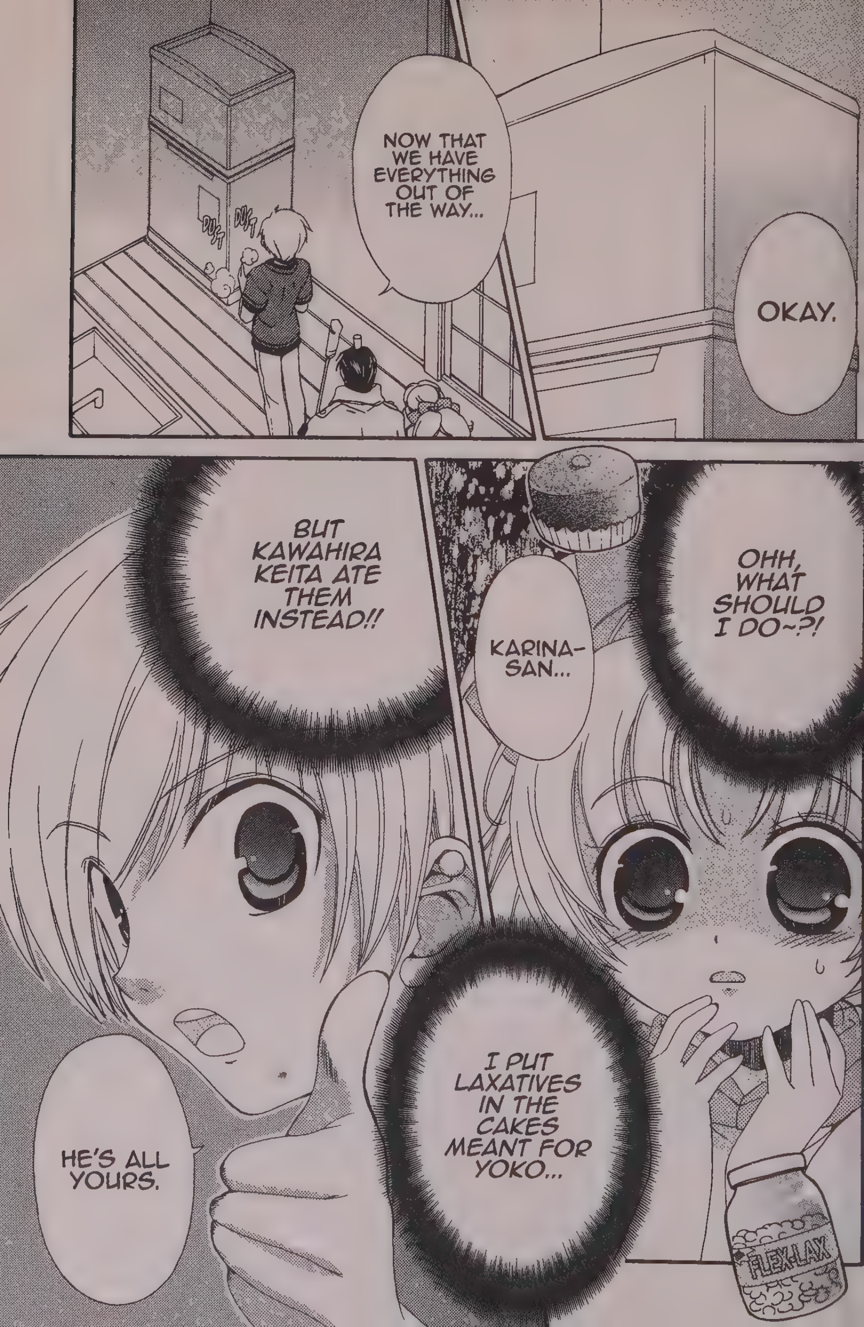

...WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THE CAN ON YOUR HEAD?
LET ME FINISH, KAWAHIRA.
EVERY YEAR, DURING THIS SEASON, ONE MUJINA IS CAPTURED...
THERE IT IS!
SO HUMANS CAN EXTRACT A SMALL AMOUNT OF ITS BLOOD.
HOWEVER...
THIS YEAR, IT ESCAPED.
ステテテテ SCAMPER
SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST CATCH IT AGAIN?
WELL, MUJINA ARE VERY FAST AND ELUSIVE.
THEY WERE SO DESPERATE THAT THEY EVEN DRAGGED ME INTO THIS MESS.
SIGH...
STOP!
STOP, DAMMIT!
SCAMPER
WE WERE ABLE TO CHASE IT INTO THE CITY, BUT IT'S STILL ON THE LOOSE...

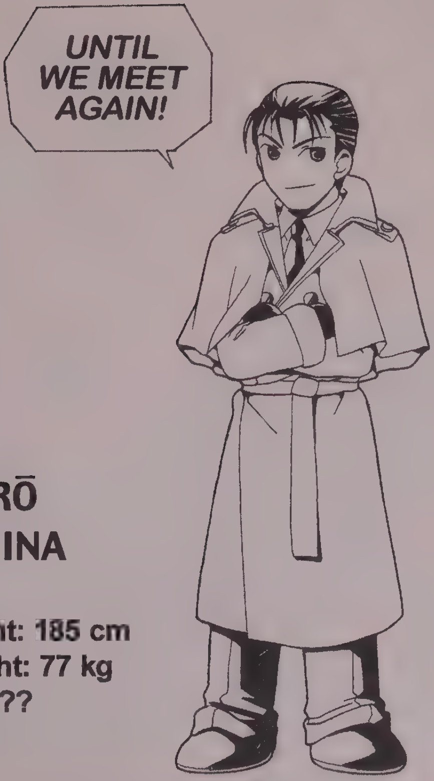

CLONK
WHEN I TRIED TO GRAB THE MUJINA, I CRASHED INTO A GARBAGE BIN...
AND WHEN A CAN LANDED ON MY HEAD, THE MUJINA FUSED IT TO MY HEAD!
THAT'S AMAZING.
WHEW...
*THE PAIN! SUBSIDED FOR NOW.
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
REALLY...
KAWAHIRA, TO BE HONEST, THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR ME TO HANDLE ALONE.
I NEED YOUR HELP.
SURE, NO PROBLEM!
YOU ALWAYS PAY GOOD MONEY!
SHAKE
SKEDADDLE
IT'S TAXPAYER MONEY...
SO SHOW SOME RESPECT!


KAWAHIRA, WHAT'S WRONG?
NNN... NOTHING. JUST MY... STOMACH FEELS A LITTLE QUEASY...
HERE IT COMES!
ドキーン
BA-THUMP
ドキーン
BA-THUMP
IT FINALLY HIT HIM!
I HAFTA DISTRACT HIM!
KA... KARINA-SAMA!
※A DISTRACTION WON'T SOLVE THIS PROBLEM.
YES?
WHAT ABOUT THE EMPTY CAN?
THAT'S THE MOST ANNOYING THING ABOUT MUJINA.
THEY HAVE THE POWER TO *FUSE* THINGS TOGETHER LIKE THIS.


きょろ KYORO
きょろ KYORO
きゅ KYUU
IT'S IN... THERE?


SO THE MUJINA IS ATTRACTED TO PEOPLE WITH SPIRITUAL POWERS, RIGHT?
SNEAK SNEAK
YES. LAST NIGHT, IT ACTUALLY APPROACHED ME.
I'D BETTER GO HOME NOW...
KYORO
KYORO KYUU
SO WE SHOULD LOOK SOMEWHERE COOL, THAT HAS ALCOHOL, AND IS NEAR SOMEONE WITH SPIRITUAL POWERS.
KYORO
KYORO
KYUU
....
UH... UMM...
DO MUJINAS MAKE NOISE?
YES, AS A MATTER OF FACT, THEY CRY "KYORO KYORO KYUU."
KYORO KYORO KYUU

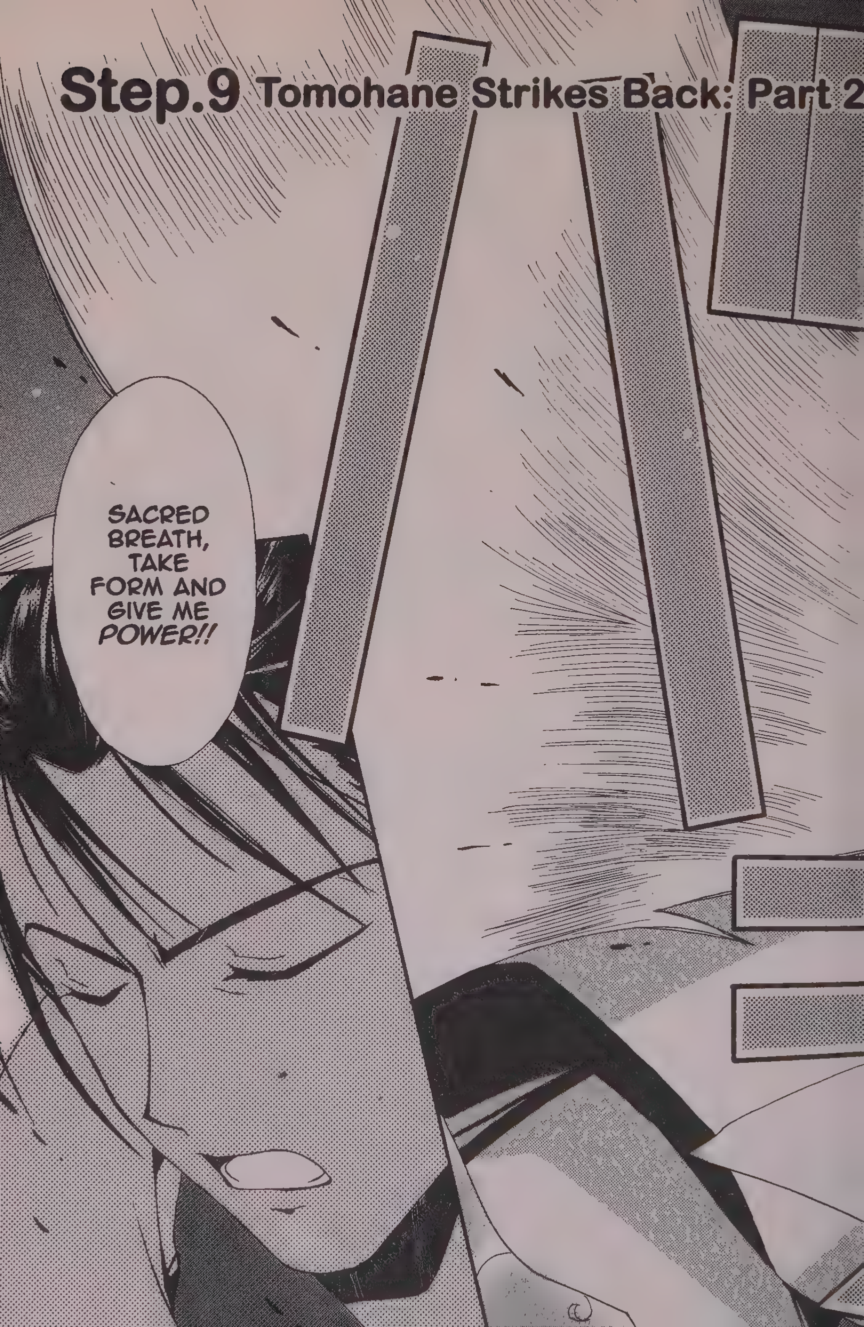

OKAY.
NOW THAT WE HAVE EVERYTHING OUT OF THE WAY...
DUST
DUST
OHH, WHAT SHOULD I DO~?!
KARINA-SAN...
I PUT LAXATIVES IN THE CAKES MEANT FOR YOKO...
FLEX-LAX
BUT KAWAHIRA KEITA ATE THEM INSTEAD!!
HE'S ALL YOURS.

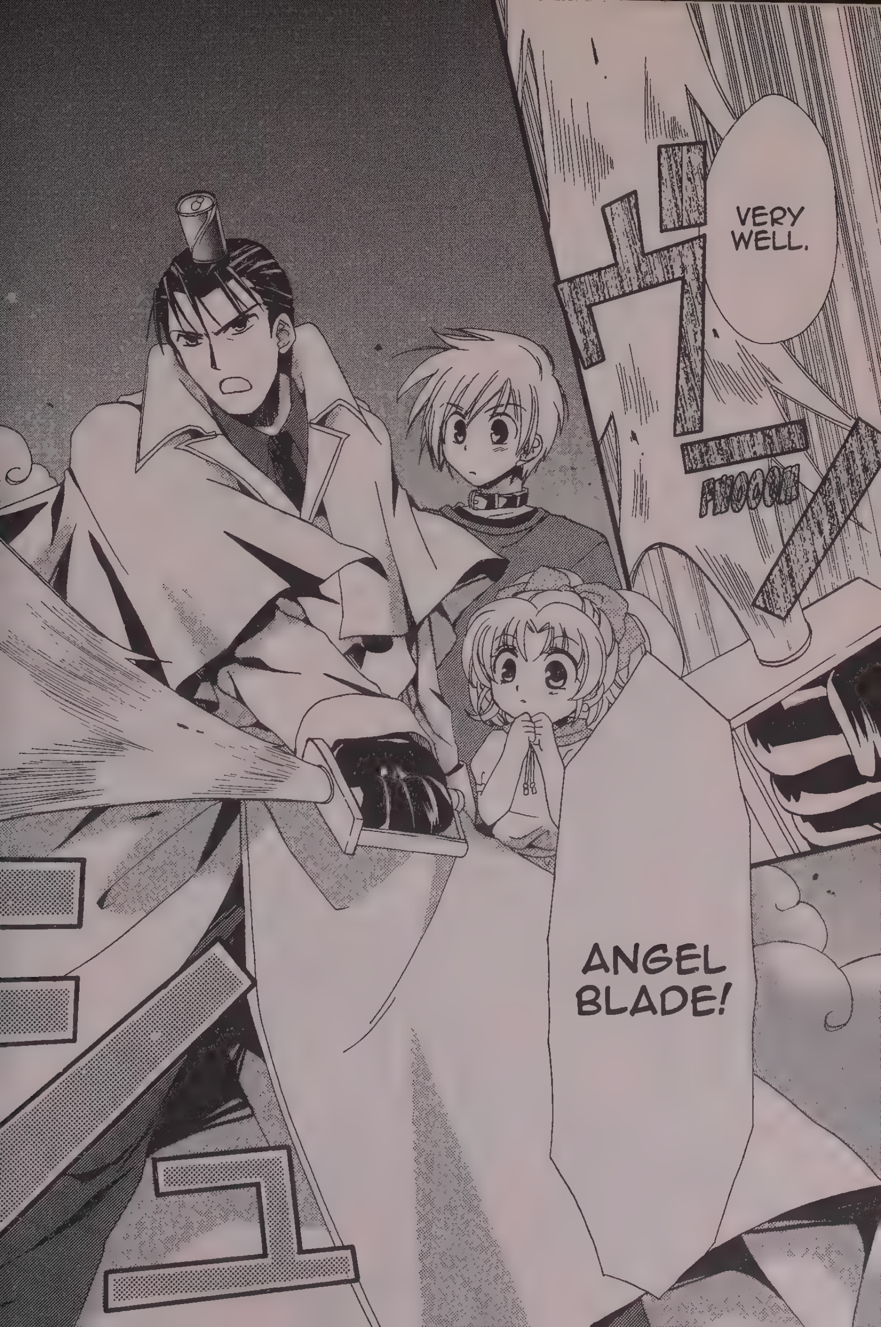

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!

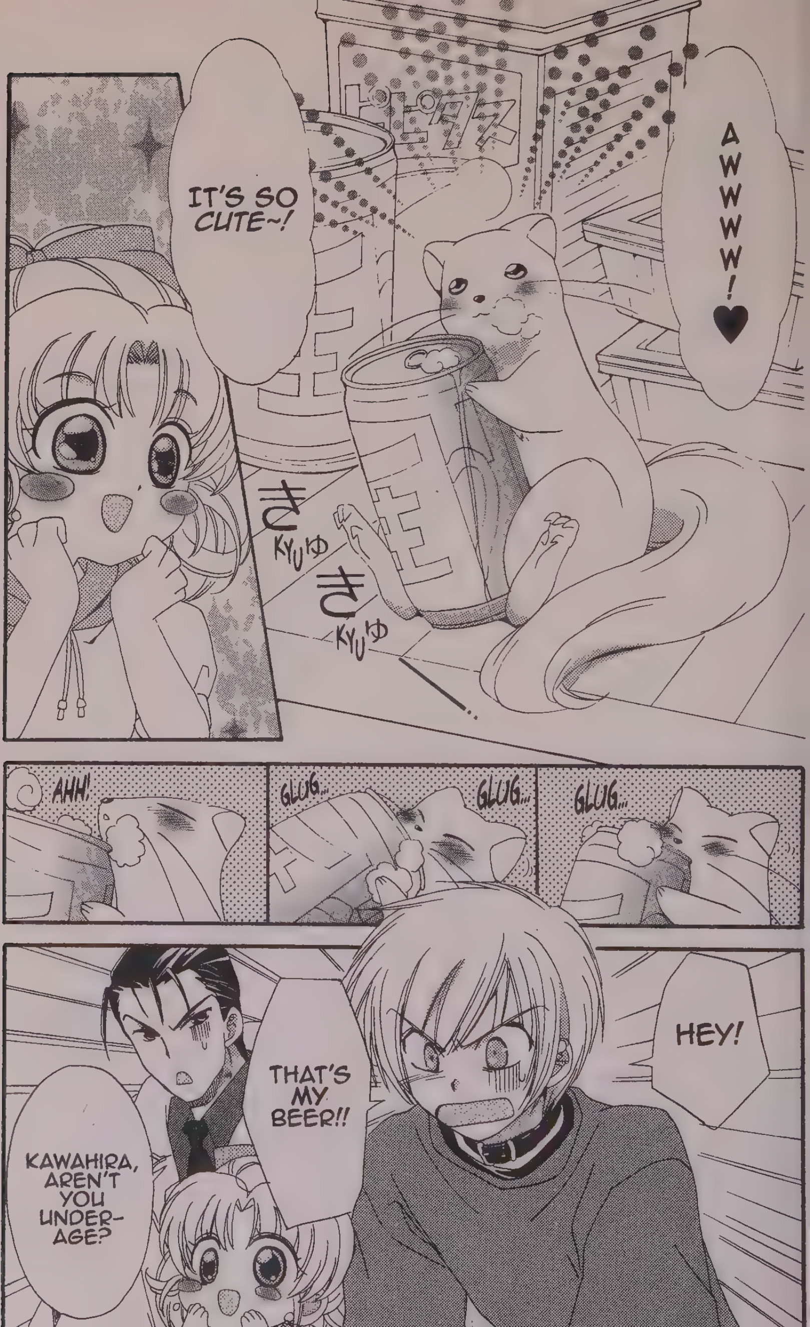
SHIRŌ KARINA

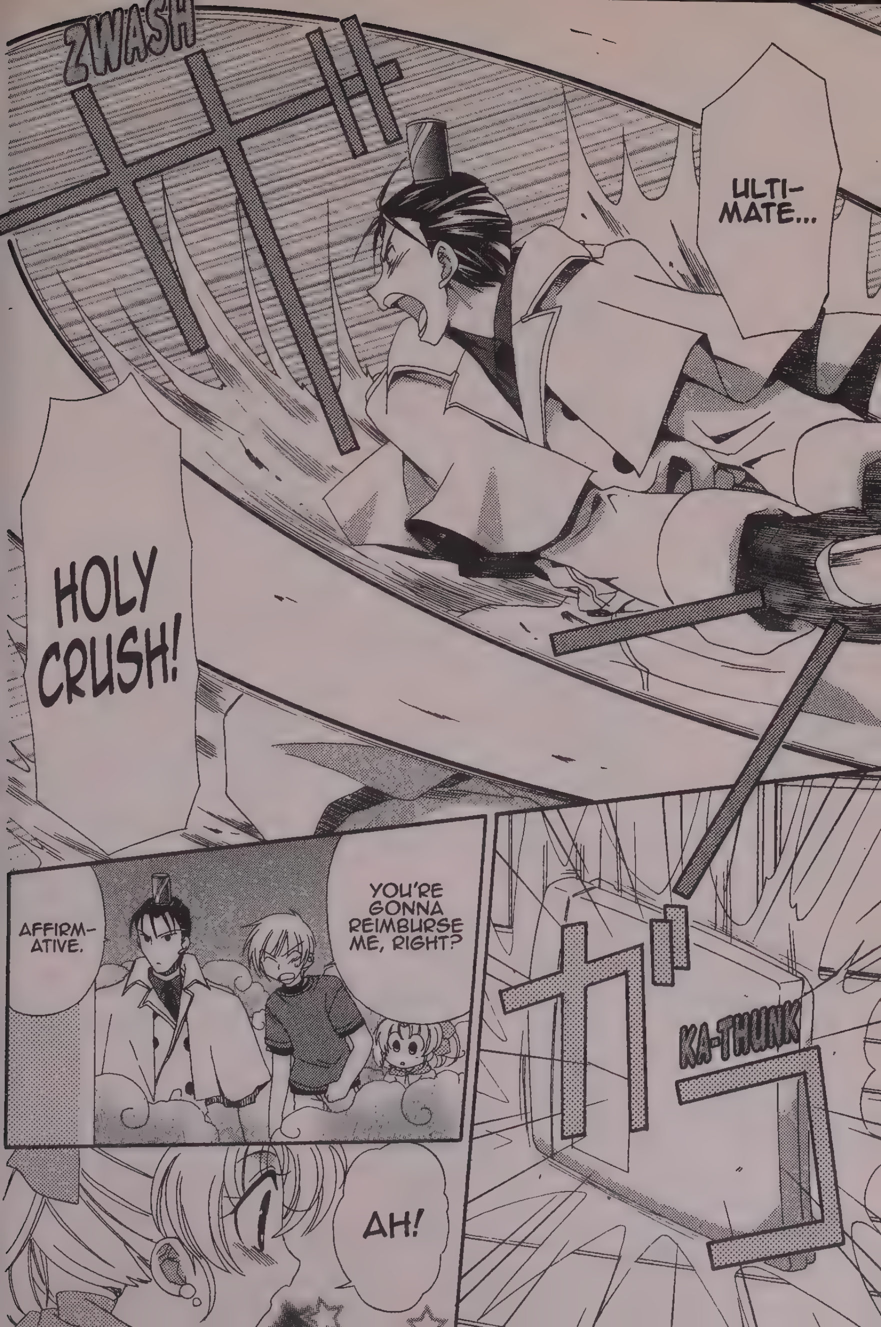
Height: 185 cm
Weight: 77 kg
Age: ??

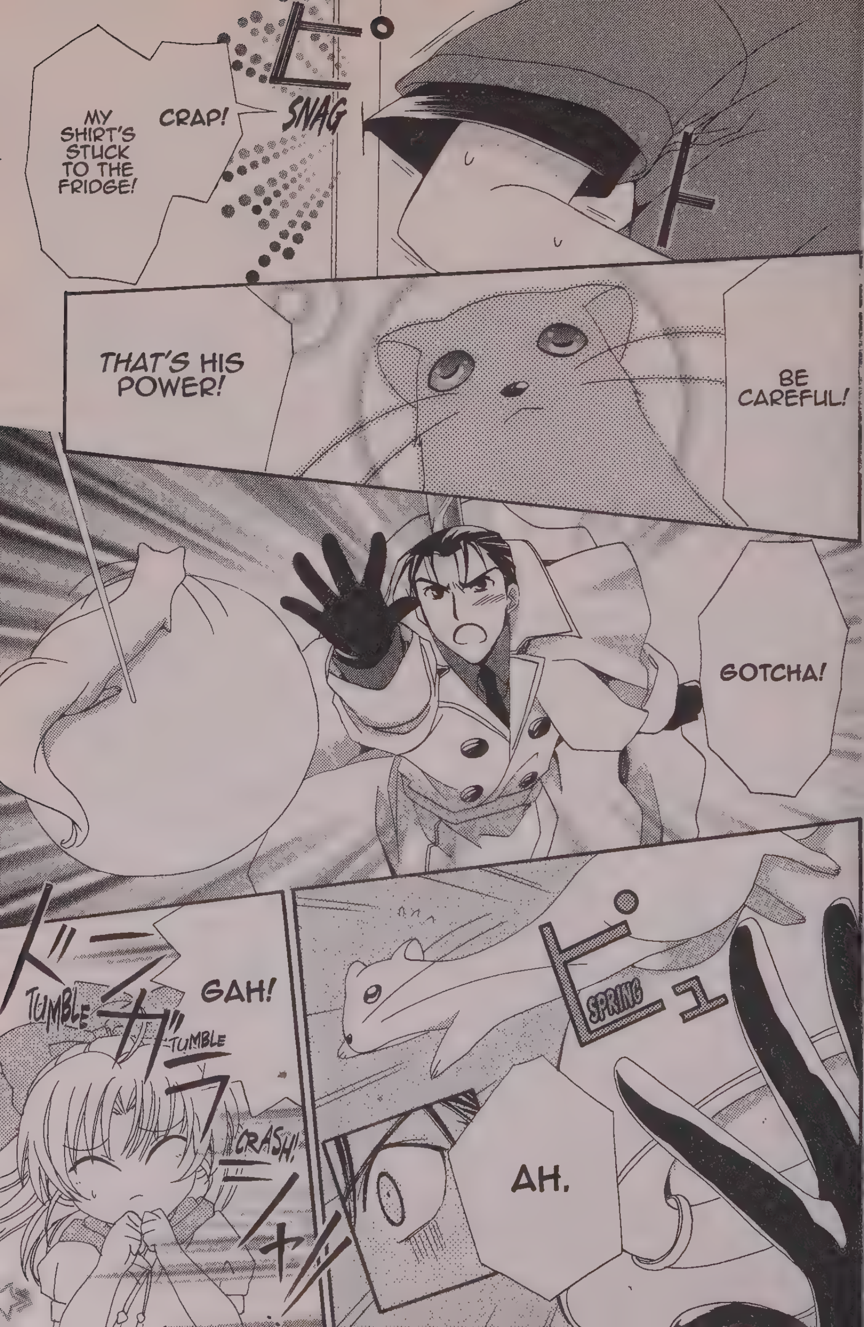
Step.9 Tomohane Strikes Back: Part 2

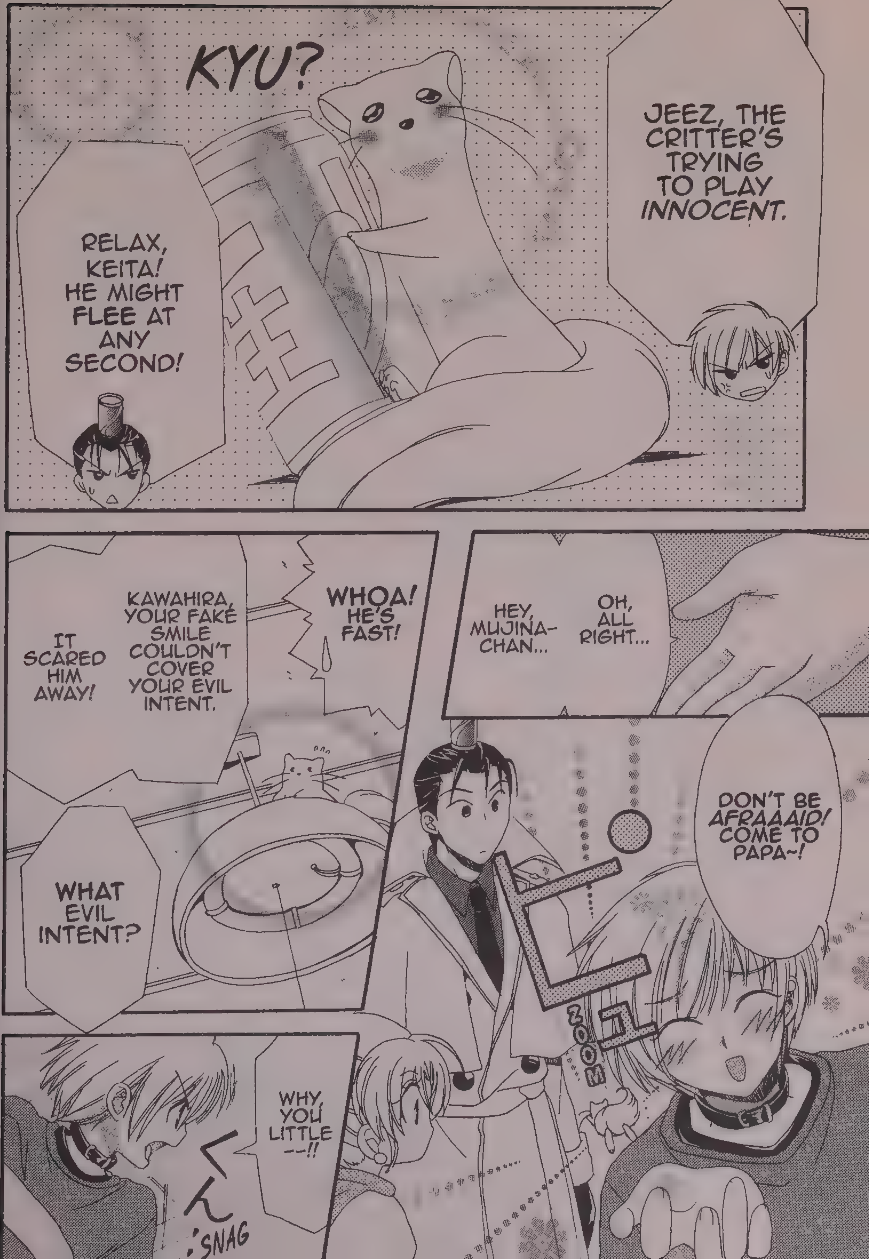

SACRED BREATH, TAKE FORM AND GIVE ME *POWER!!*

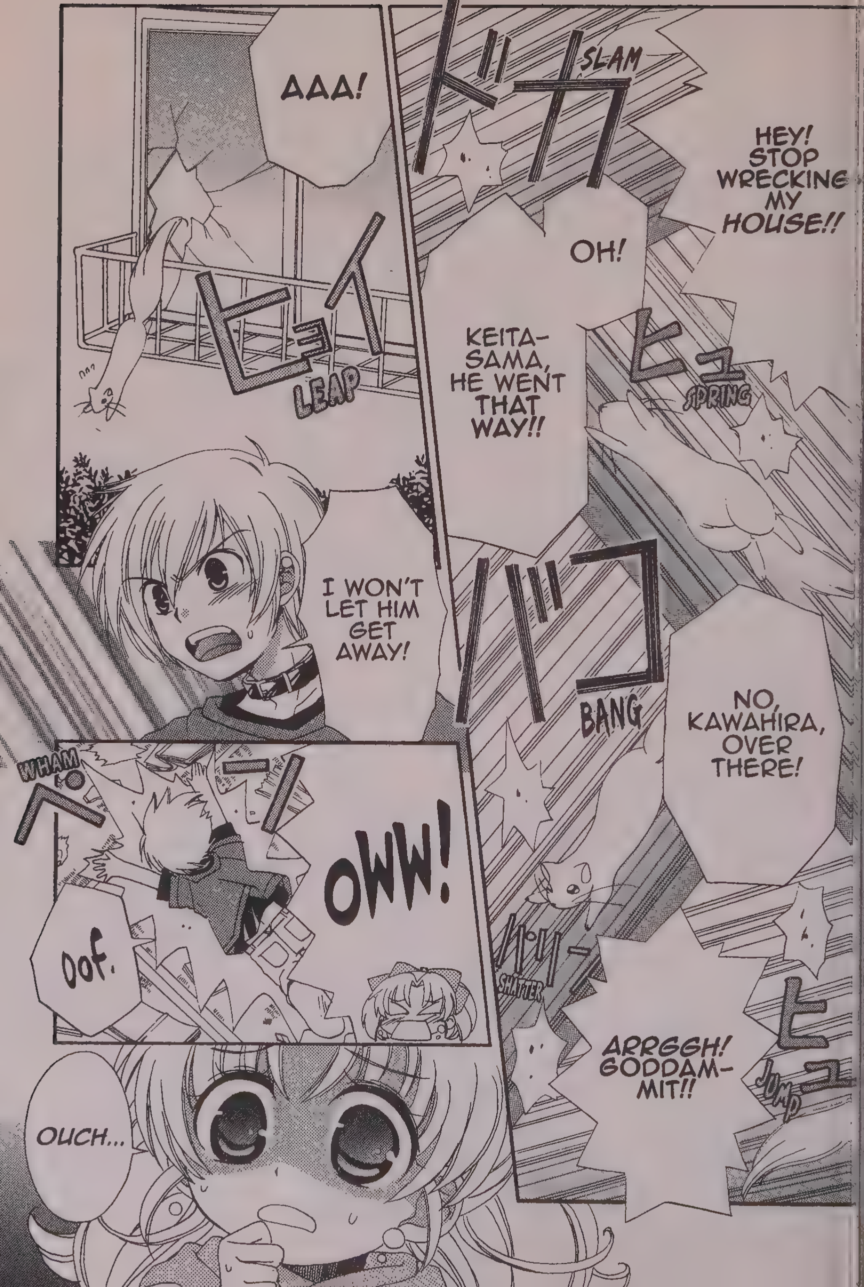

VERY WELL.
FWOOOM
ANGEL BLADE!

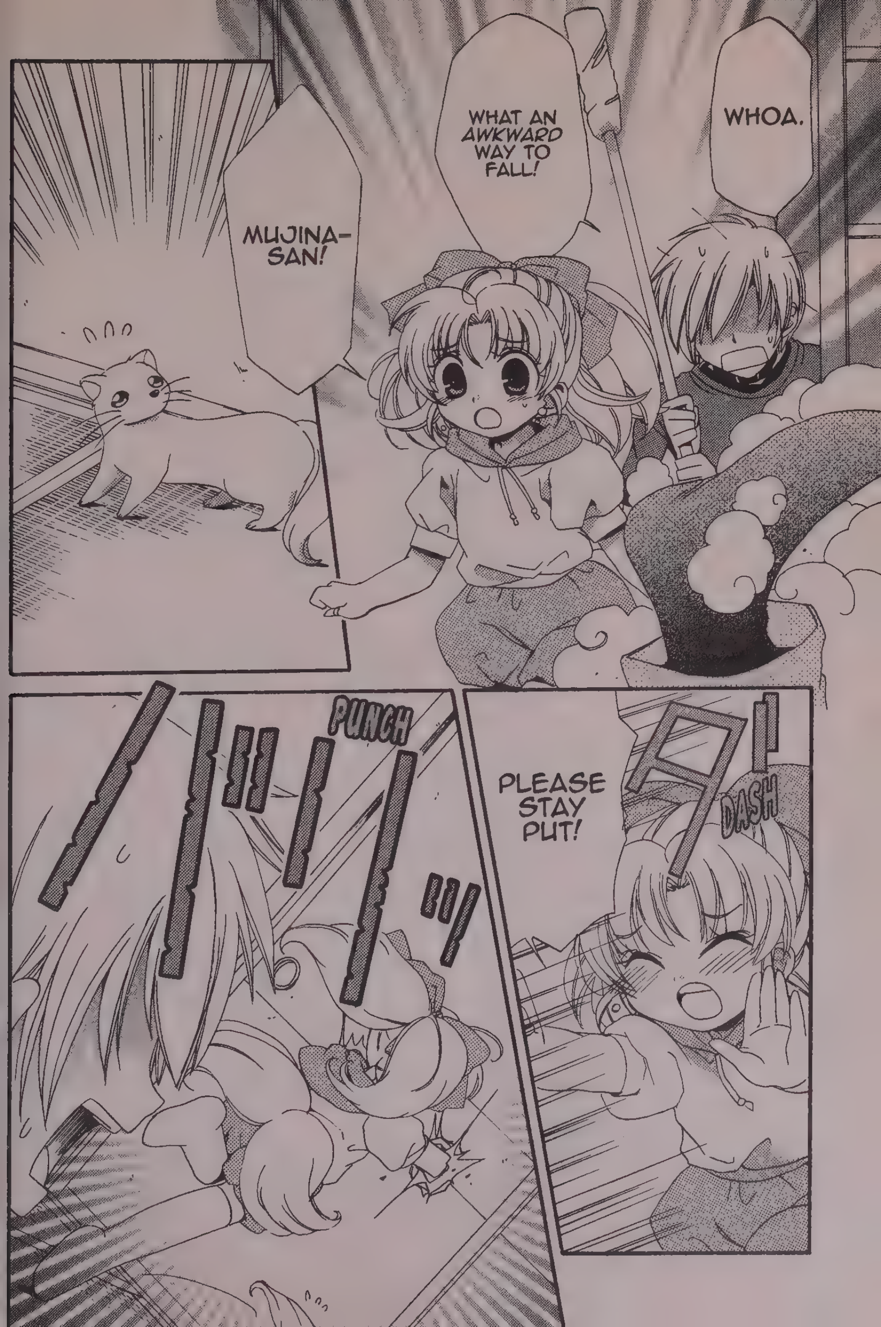

AWWWWW!♥
IT'S SO CUTE~!
きKYUゆ
きKYUゆ
GLUG...
GLUG...
GLUG...
AHH!
HEY!
THAT'S MY BEER!!
KAWAHIRA, AREN'T YOU UNDER-AGE?

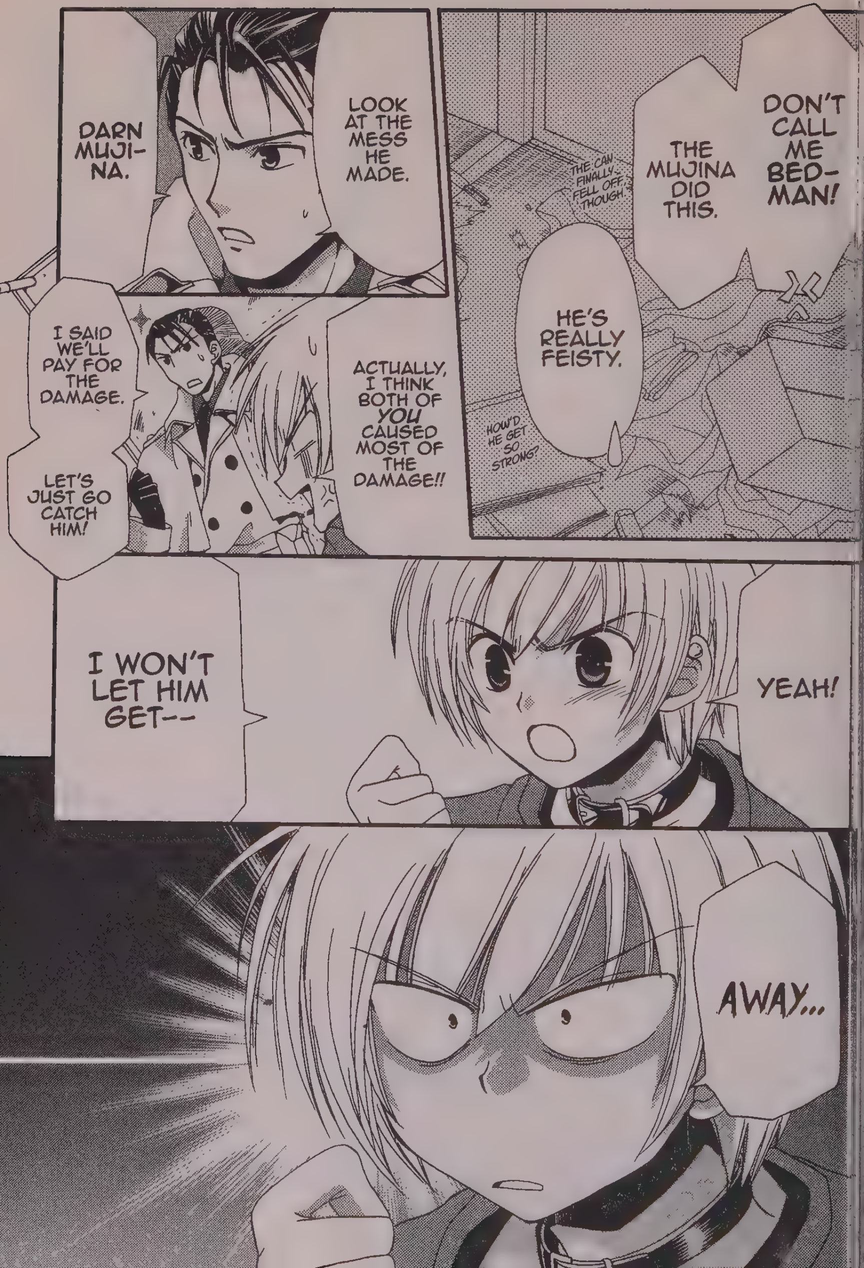

ZWASH
ULTI-MATE...
HOLY CRUSH!
ガッ
KA-THUNK
YOU'RE GONNA REIMBURSE ME, RIGHT?
AFFIRM-ATIVE.
AH!

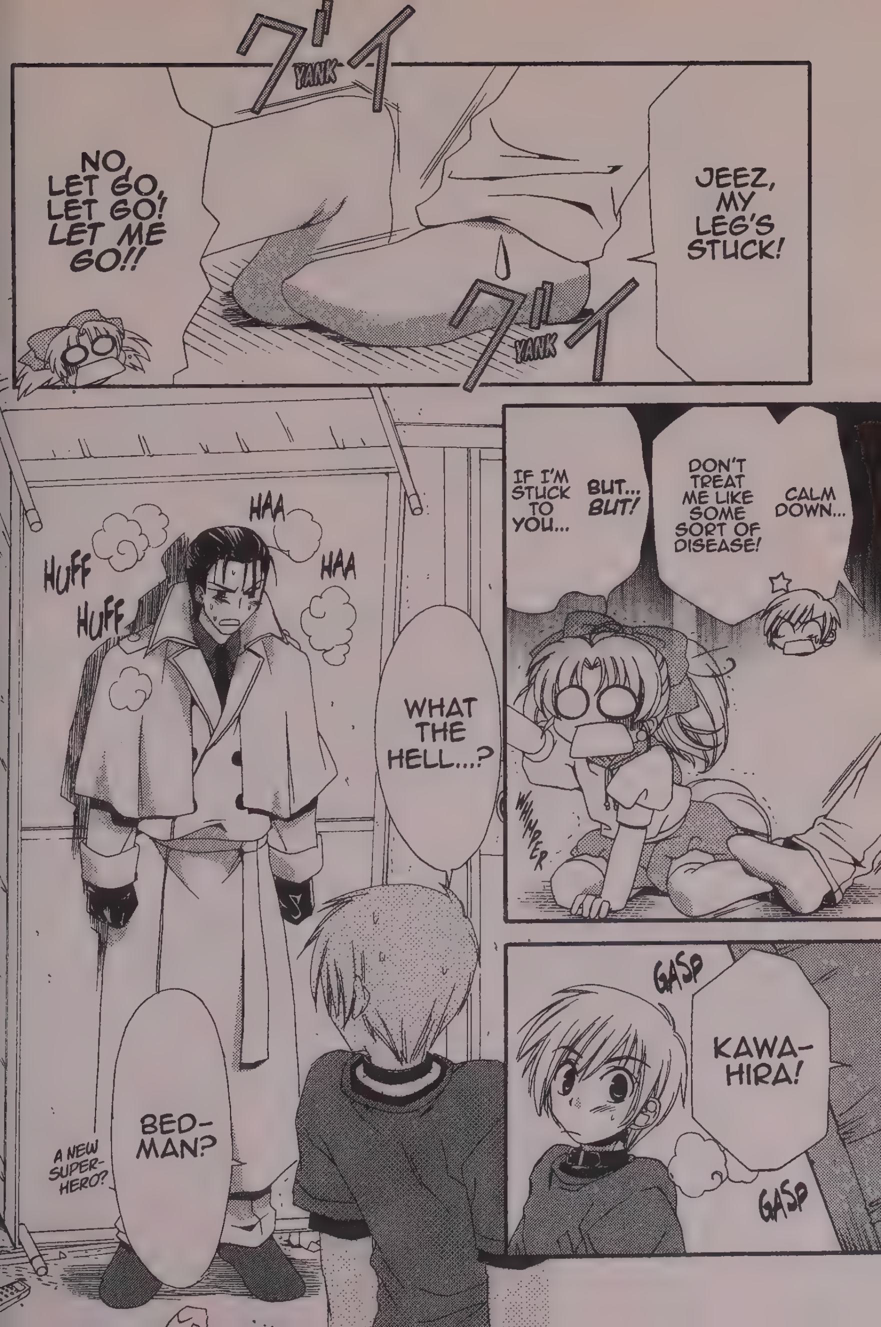

SNAG
CRAP!
MY SHIRT'S STUCK TO THE FRIDGE!
BE CAREFUL!
THAT'S HIS POWER!
GOTCHA!
SPRING
AH.
GAH!
TUMBLE
TUMBLE
CRASH!

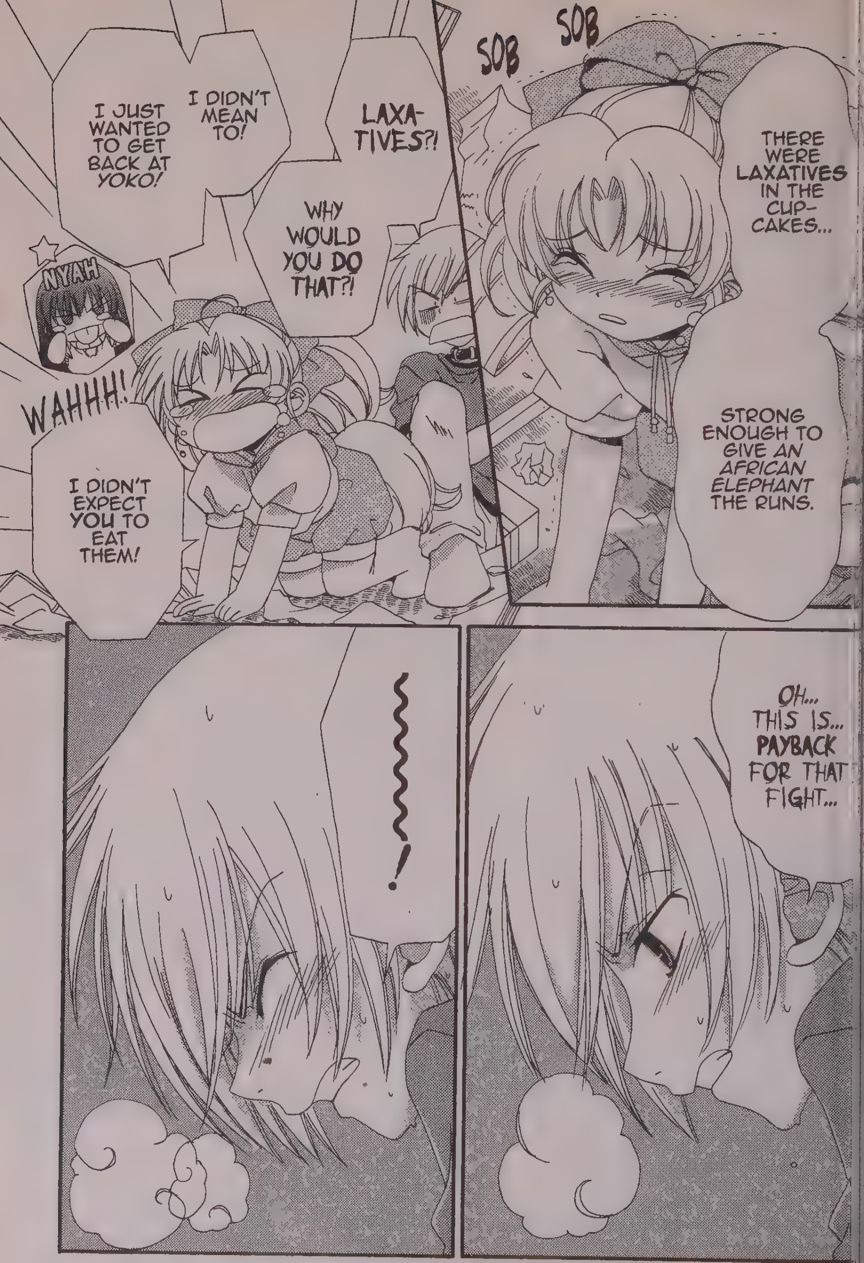

JEEZ, THE CRITTER'S TRYING TO PLAY *INNOCENT.*
KYU?
RELAX, KEITA! HE MIGHT FLEE AT ANY SECOND!
OH, ALL RIGHT...
HEY, MUJINA-CHAN...
DON'T BE AFRAAAID! COME TO PAPA~!
ZOOM
WHOA! HE'S FAST!
KAWAHIRA, YOUR FAKE SMILE COULDN'T COVER YOUR EVIL INTENT.
IT SCARED HIM AWAY!
WHAT EVIL INTENT?
WHY, YOU LITTLE --!!
SNAG

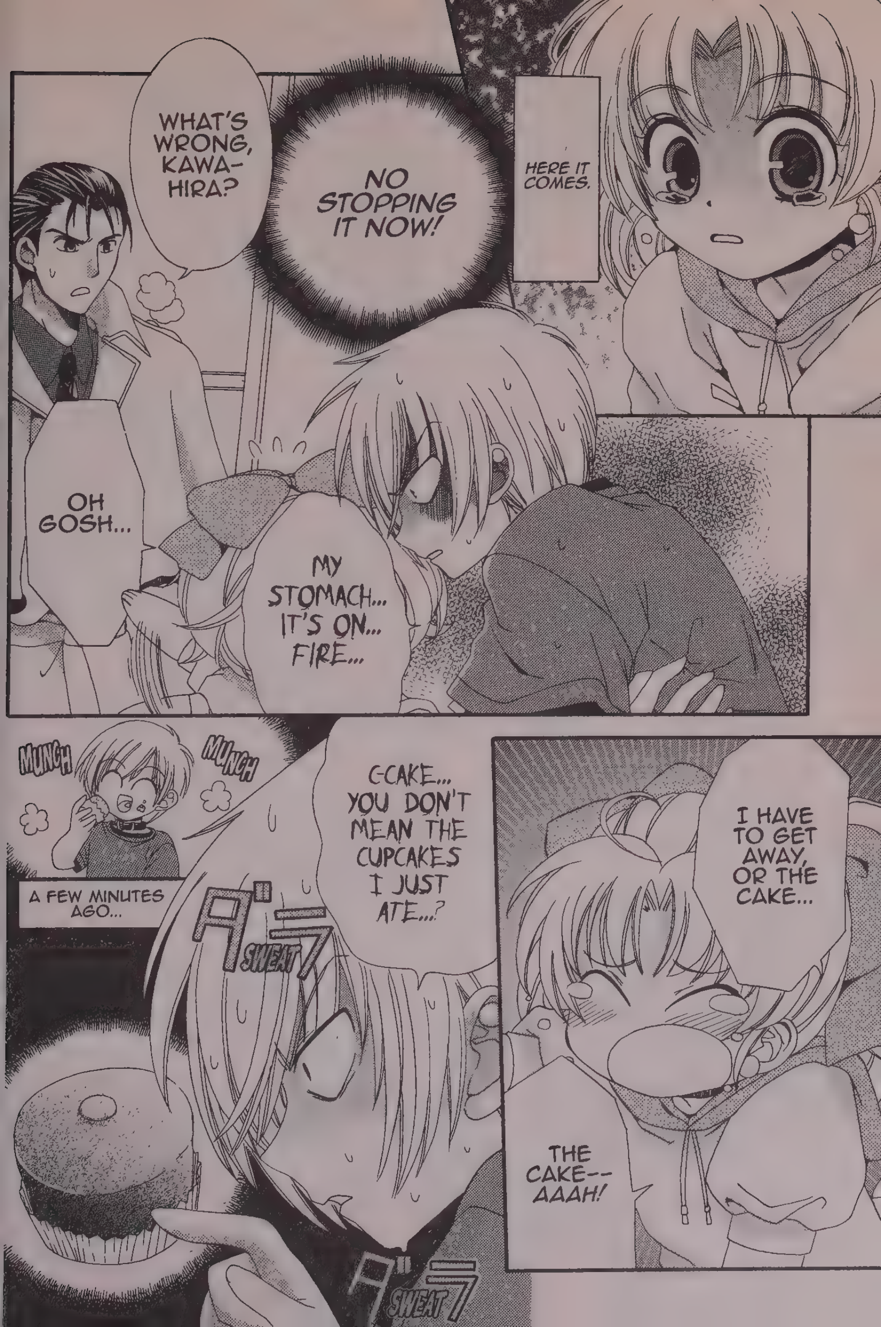

ドカ
SLAM
HEY! STOP WRECKING MY HOUSE!!
OH!
ヒュ
SPRING
KEITA-SAMA, HE WENT THAT WAY!!
AAA!
ヒョイ
LEAP
I WON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
バコ
BANG
NO, KAWAHIRA, OVER THERE!
パリー
SHATTER
ARRGGH! GODDAMMIT!!
ヒュ
JUMP
べしー
WHAM
OWW!
Oof.
OUCH...

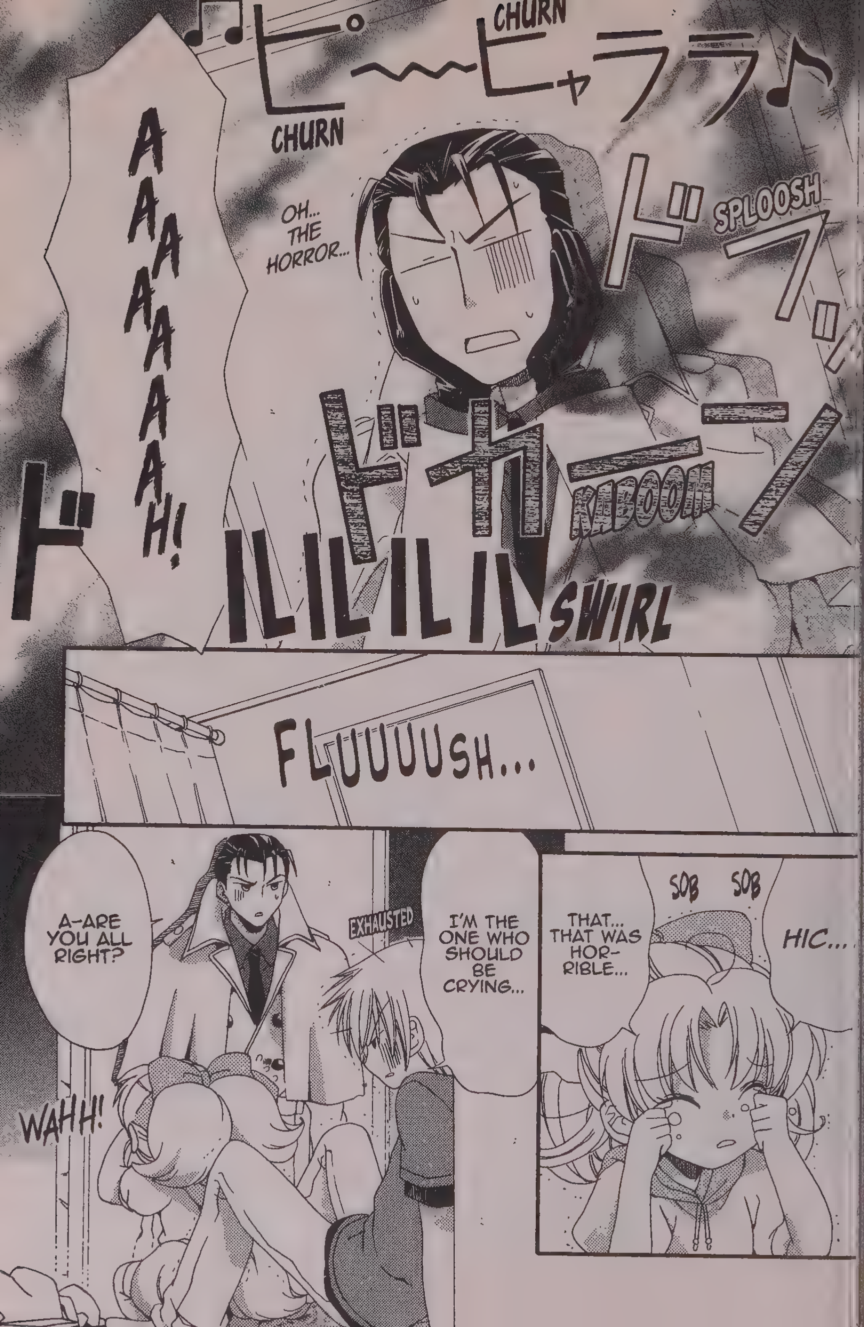

WHOA.
WHAT AN AWKWARD WAY TO FALL!
MUJINA-SAN!
PLEASE STAY PUT!
DASH
PUNCH

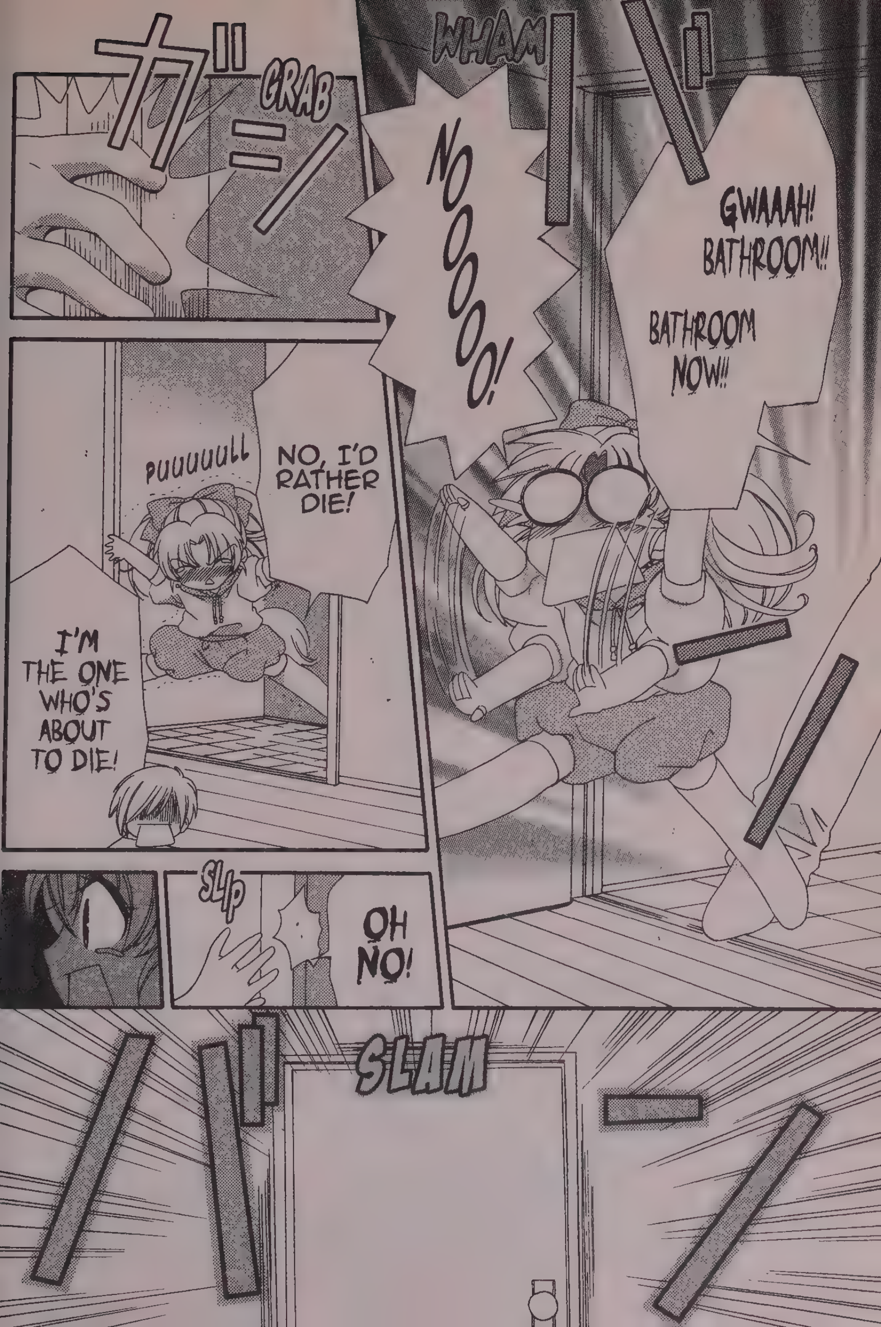

DON'T CALL ME BED-MAN!
THE MUJINA DID THIS.
THE CAN FINALLY FELL OFF, THOUGH.
HE'S REALLY FEISTY.
HOW'D HE GET SO STRONG?
LOOK AT THE MESS HE MADE.
DARN MUJINA.
ACTUALLY, I THINK BOTH OF *YOU* CAUSED MOST OF THE DAMAGE!!
I SAID WE'LL PAY FOR THE DAMAGE.
LET'S JUST GO CATCH HIM!
YEAH!
I WON'T LET HIM GET--
AWAY...

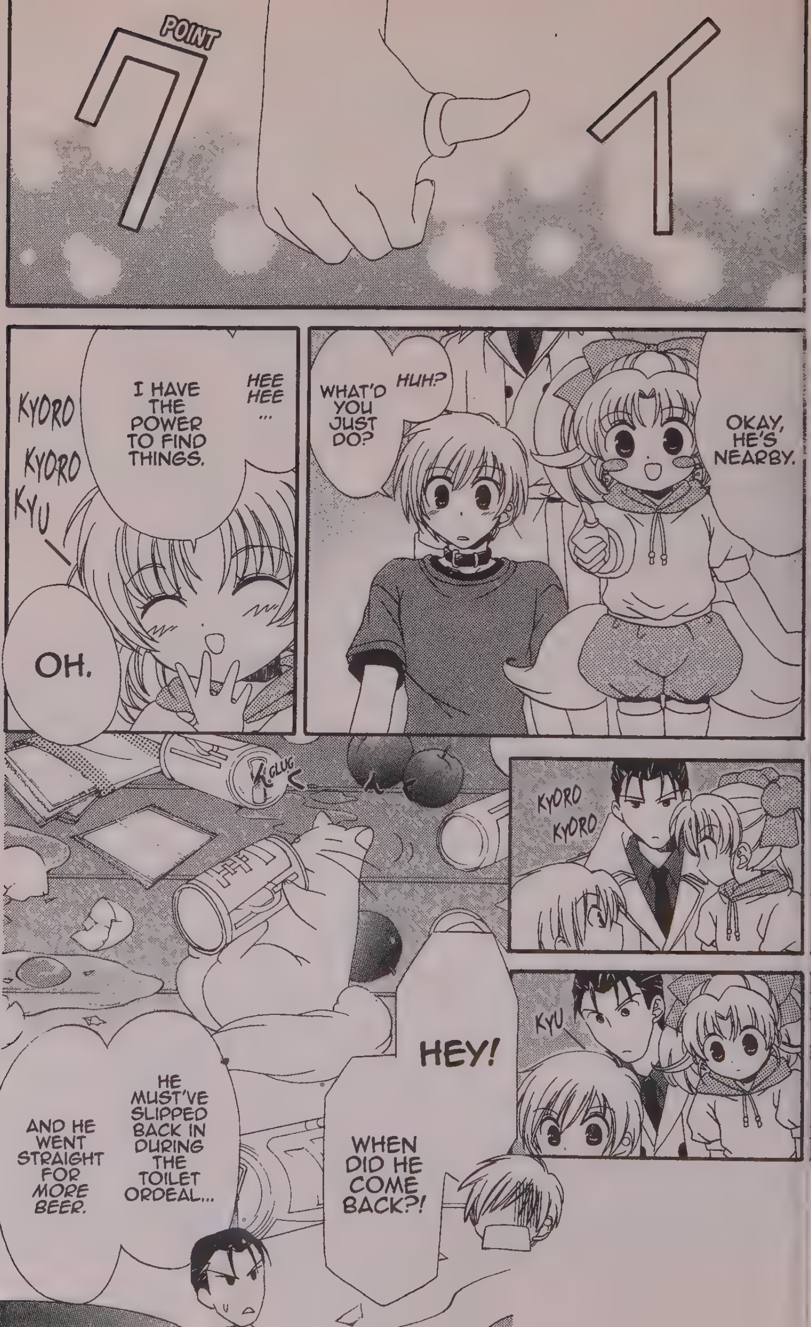

グイ YANK
JEEZ, MY LEG'S STUCK!
グイ YANK
NO, LET GO, LET GO! LET ME GO!!
CALM DOWN...
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE SOME SORT OF DISEASE!
BUT... BUT!
IF I'M STUCK TO YOU...
WHIMPER
GASP
KAWA-HIRA!
GASP
HAA
HAA
HUFF
HUFF
WHAT THE HELL...?
BED-MAN?
A NEW SUPER-HERO?

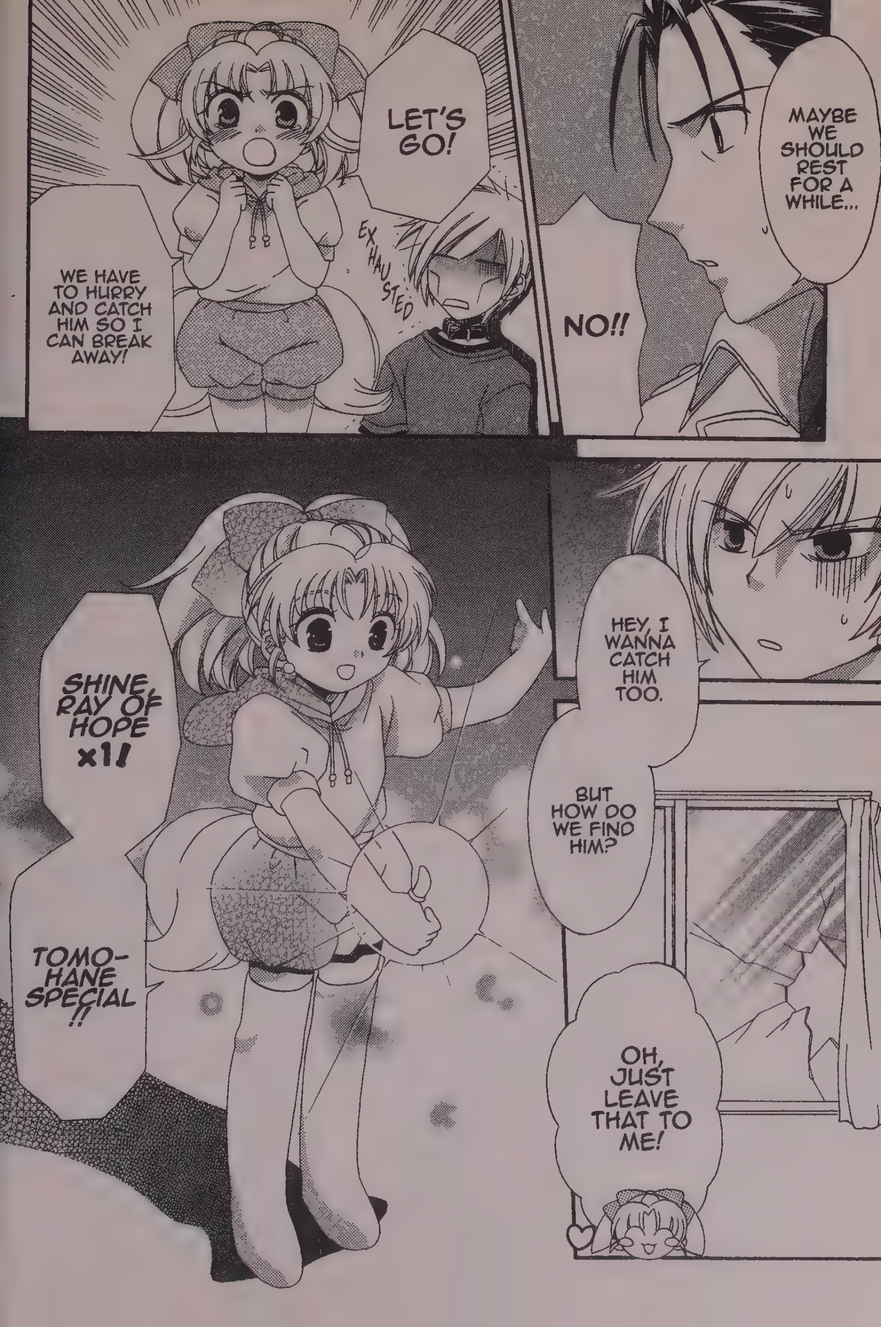

SOB
SOB
THERE WERE LAXATIVES IN THE CUPCAKES...
STRONG ENOUGH TO GIVE AN AFRICAN ELEPHANT THE RUNS.
LAXATIVES?!
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO!
I JUST WANTED TO GET BACK AT YOKO!
NYAH
WAHHH!
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO EAT THEM!
OH... THIS IS... PAYBACK FOR THAT FIGHT...
!

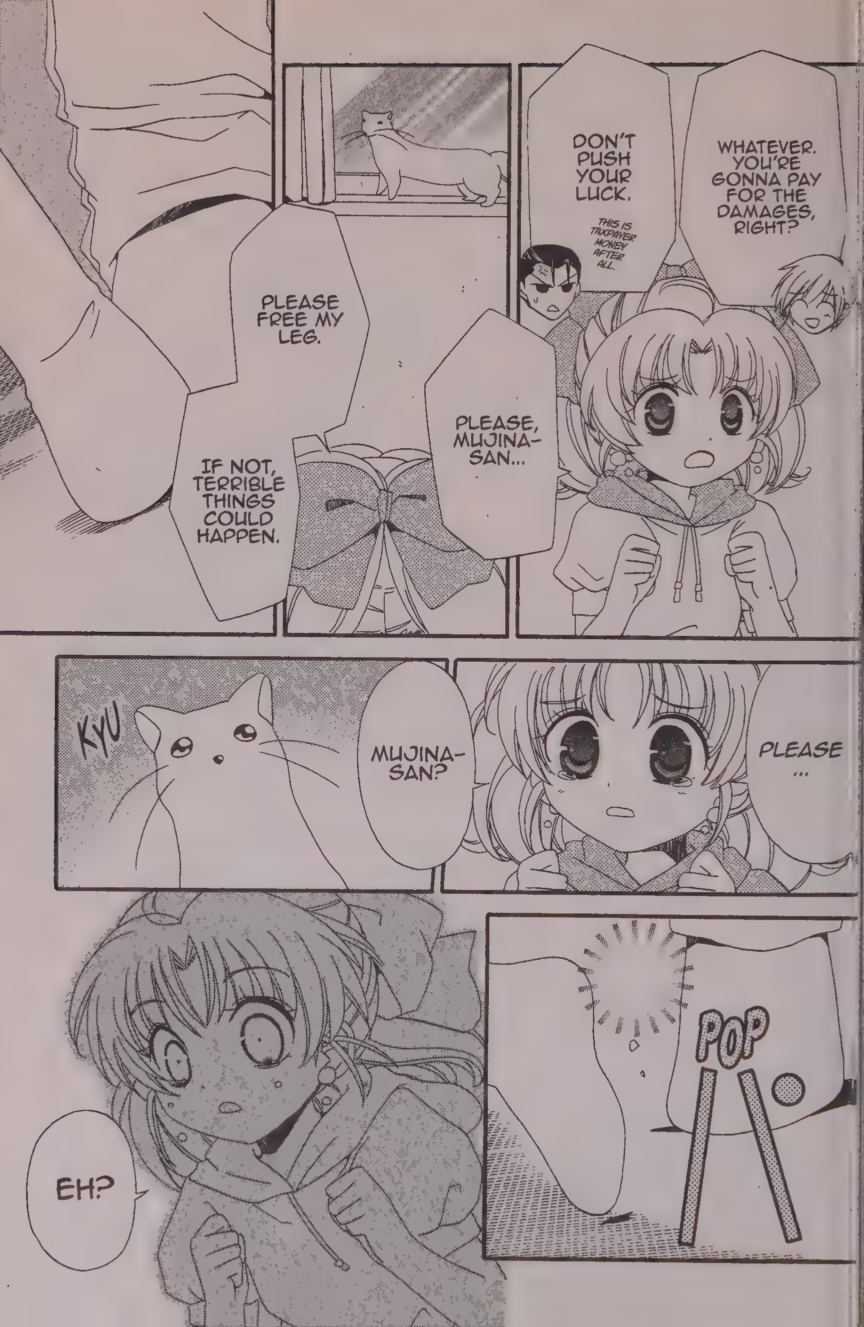

HERE IT COMES.
NO STOPPING IT NOW!
WHAT'S WRONG, KAWAHIRA?
MY STOMACH... IT'S ON... FIRE...
OH GOSH...
I HAVE TO GET AWAY, OR THE CAKE...
THE CAKE--AAAH!
G-CAKE... YOU DON'T MEAN THE CUPCAKES I JUST ATE...?
SWEAT
SWEAT
MUNCH
MUNCH
A FEW MINUTES AGO...

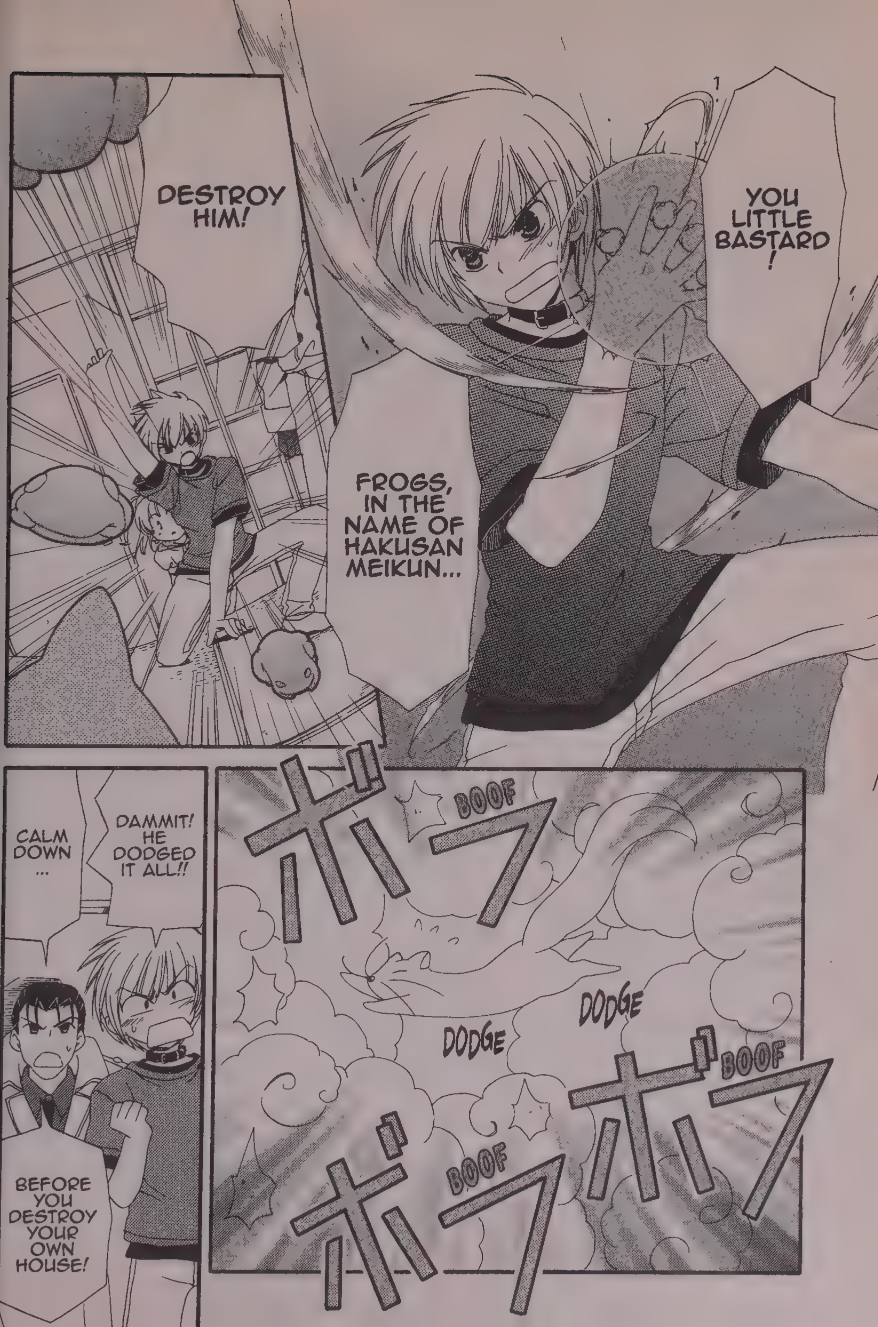

♪♪ピ〜〜ヒャララ♪
CHURN
CHURN
ドブッ
SPLOOSH
OH... THE HORROR...
AAAAAAAH!
ドカーン
KABOOM
ド
ルルルル
SWIRL
FLUUUUSH...
SOB SOB
HIC...
THAT... THAT WAS HORRIBLE...
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE CRYING...
EXHAUSTED
A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WAHH!

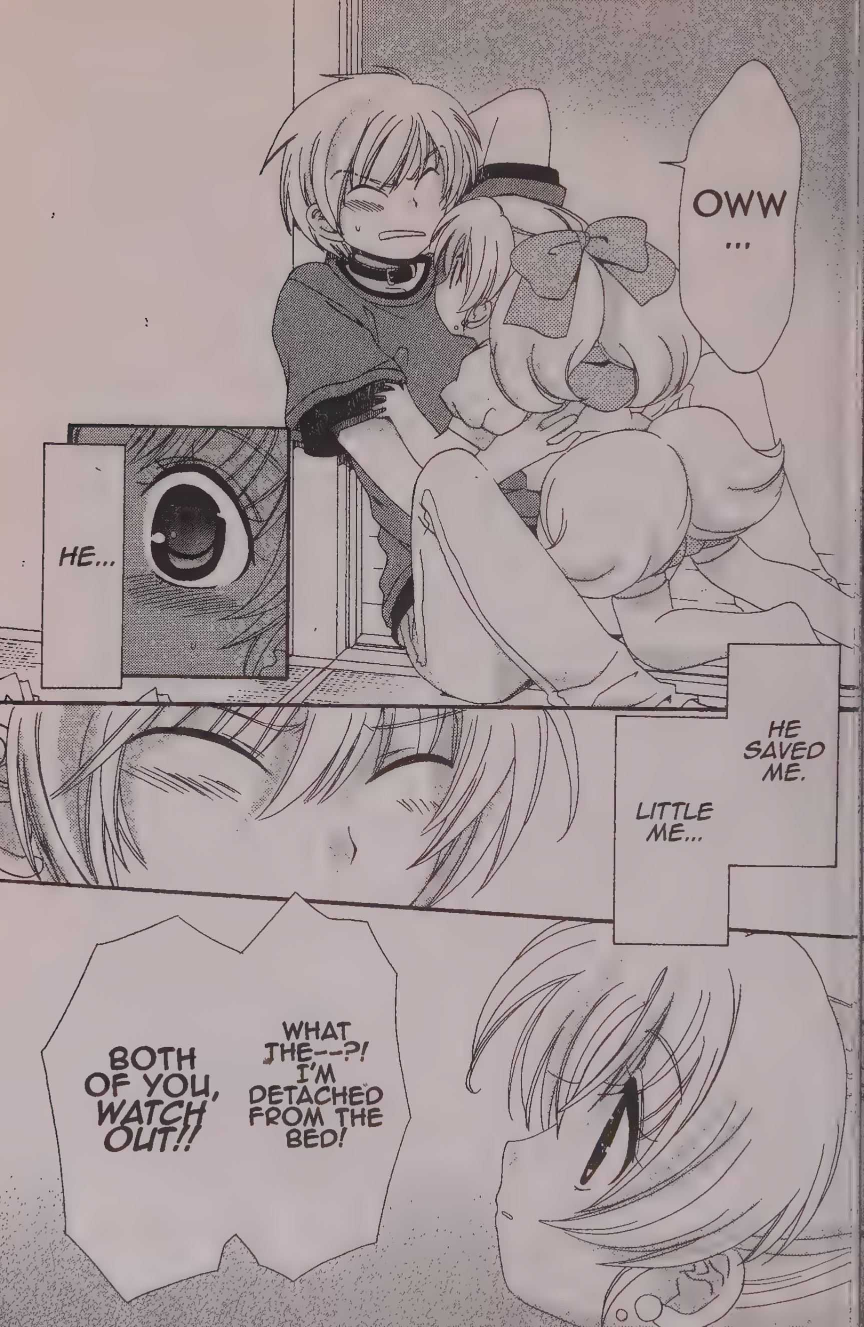

WHAM
GWAAAH! BATHROOM!!
BATHROOM NOW!!
NOOOOOO!
GRAB
NO, I'D RATHER DIE!
puuuuuull
I'M THE ONE WHO'S ABOUT TO DIE!
OH NO!
SLIP
SLAM

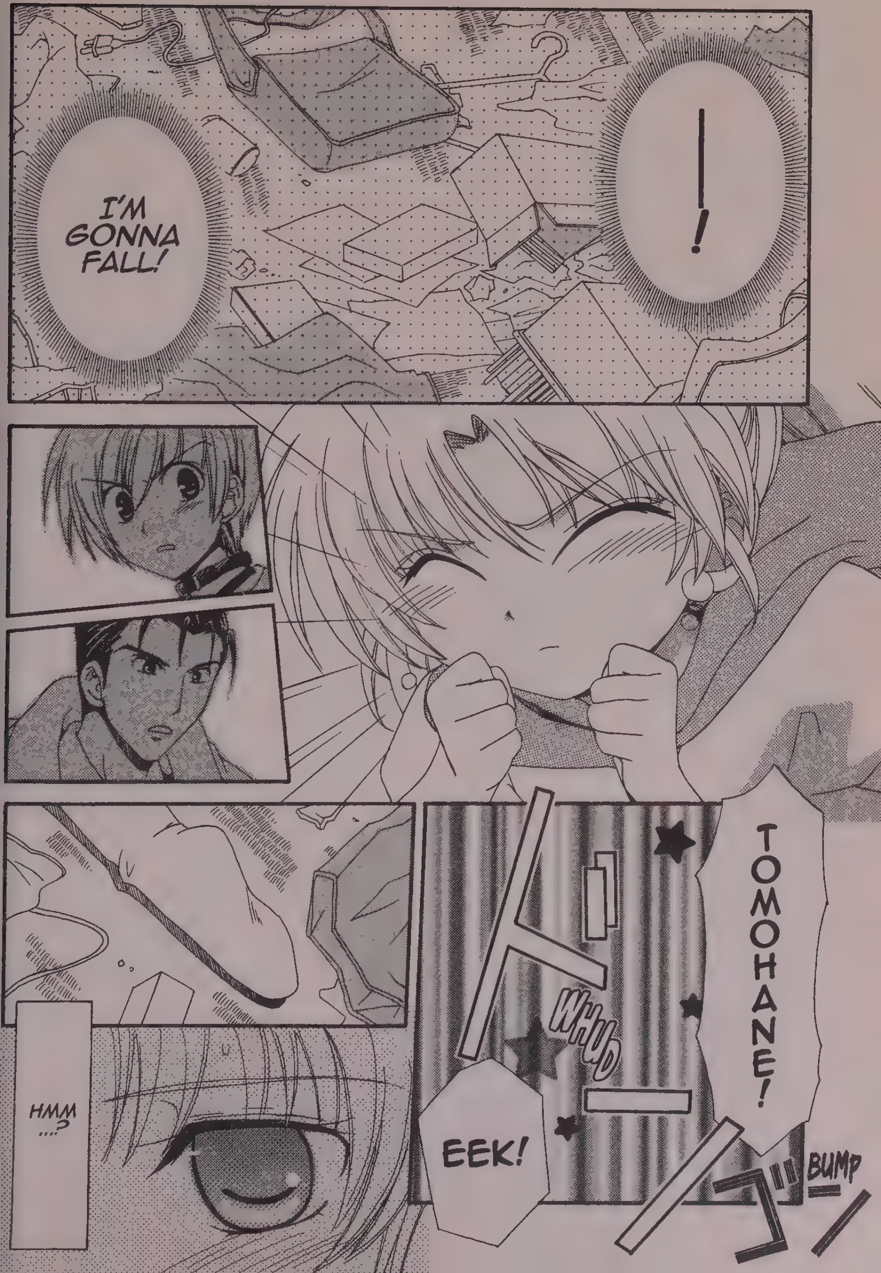

POINT
クイ
OKAY, HE'S NEARBY.
HUH?
WHAT'D YOU JUST DO?
HEE HEE ...
I HAVE THE POWER TO FIND THINGS.
KYORO
KYORO
KYU
OH.
KYORO KYORO
KYU
GLUG
HEY!
WHEN DID HE COME BACK?!
HE MUST'VE SLIPPED BACK IN DURING THE TOILET ORDEAL...
AND HE WENT STRAIGHT FOR MORE BEER.

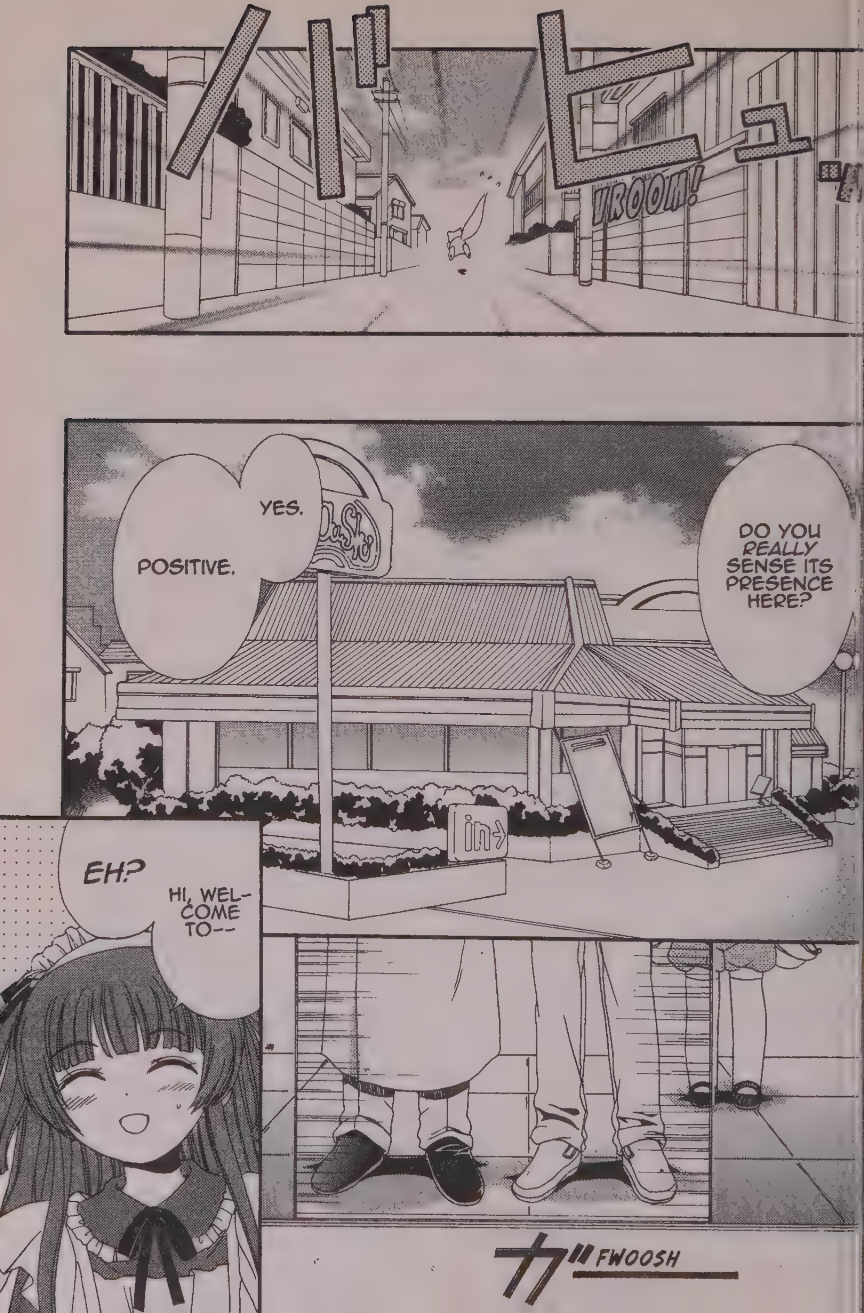

MAYBE WE SHOULD REST FOR A WHILE...
NO!!
LET'S GO!
WE HAVE TO HURRY AND CATCH HIM SO I CAN BREAK AWAY!
EXHAUSTED
HEY, I WANNA CATCH HIM TOO.
BUT HOW DO WE FIND HIM?
OH, JUST LEAVE THAT TO ME!
SHINE RAY OF HOPE x1!
TOMO-HANE SPECIAL!!

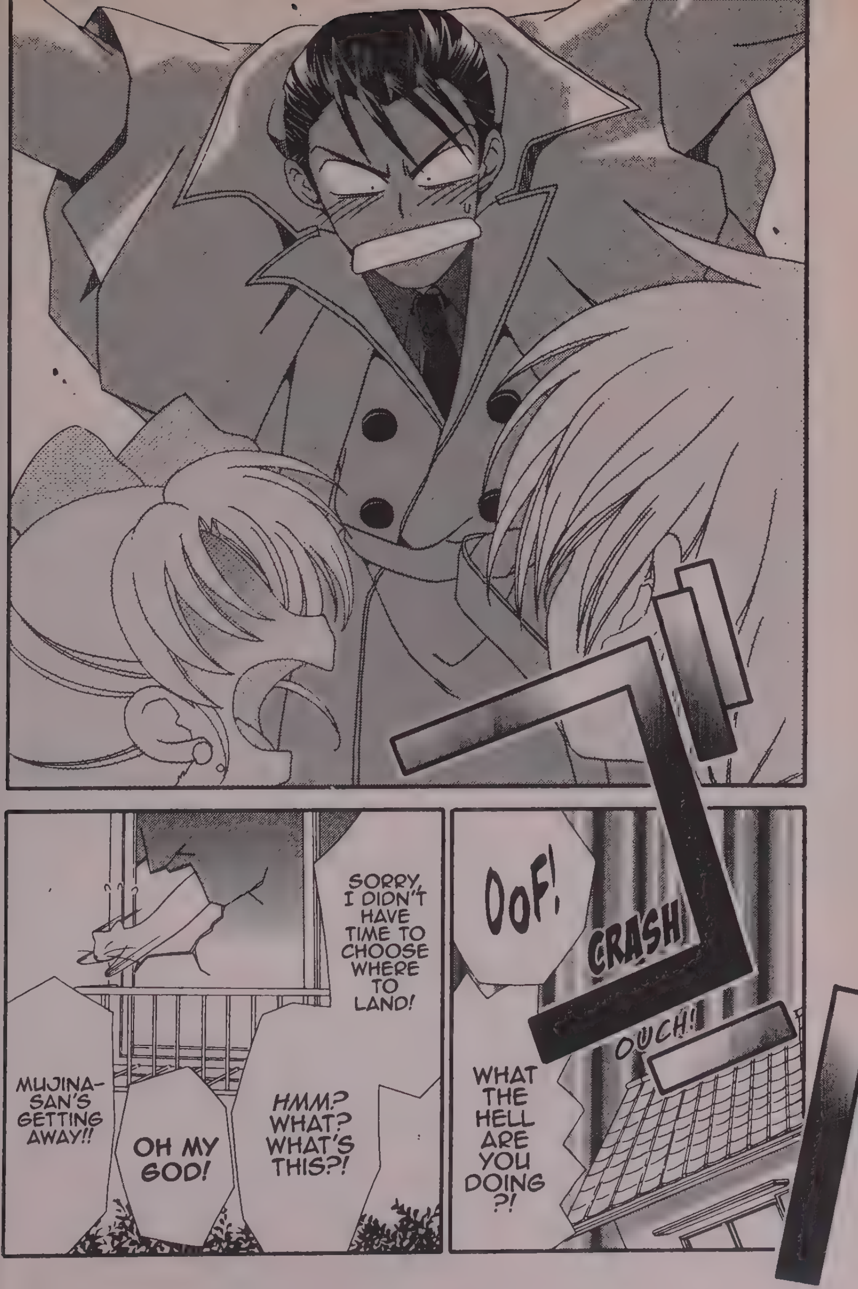

WHATEVER. YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THE DAMAGES, RIGHT?
DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK.
THIS IS TAXPAYER MONEY AFTER ALL.
PLEASE, MUJINA-SAN...
PLEASE FREE MY LEG.
IF NOT, TERRIBLE THINGS COULD HAPPEN.
PLEASE ...
MUJINA-SAN?
KYU
POP
EH?

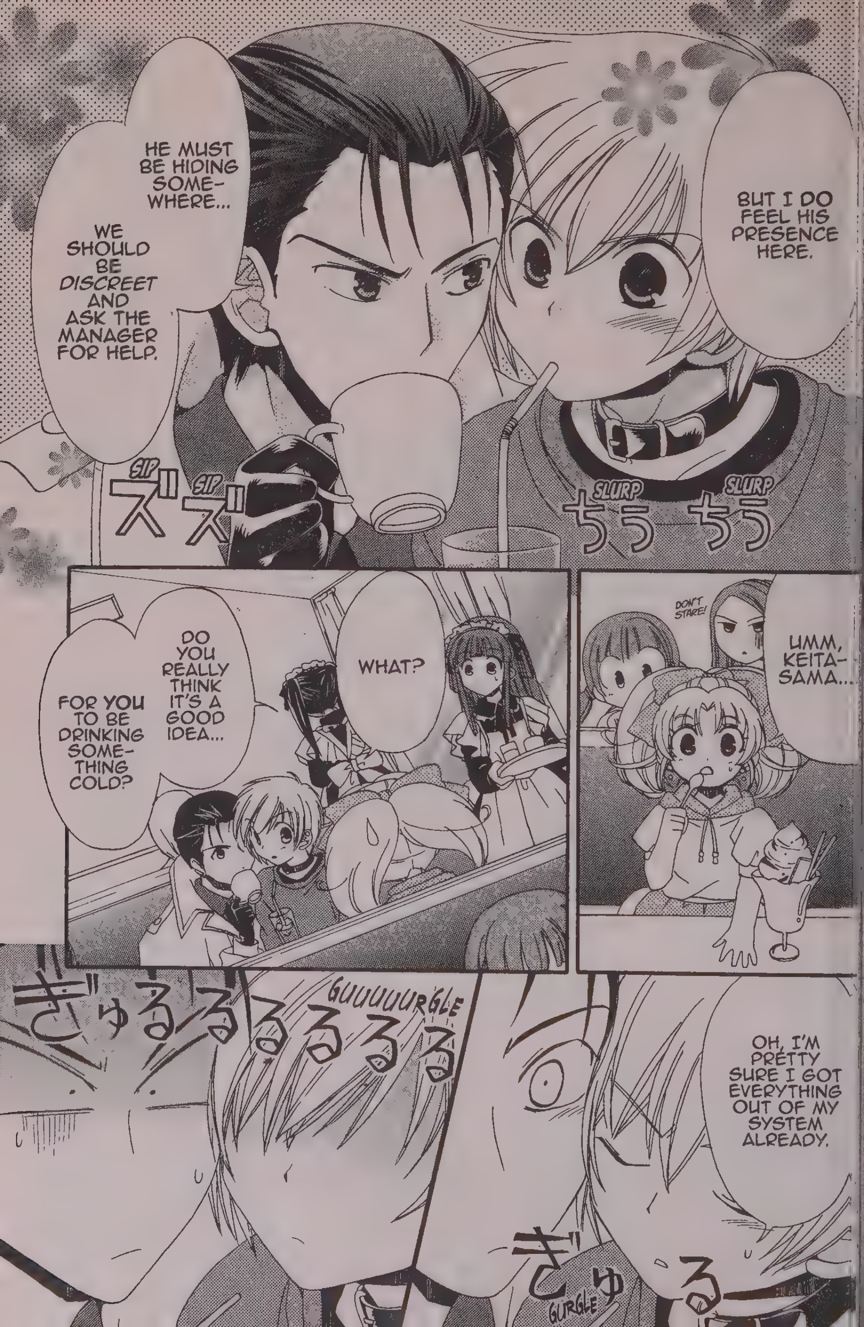

YOU LITTLE BASTARD!
FROGS, IN THE NAME OF HAKUSAN MEIKUN...
DESTROY HIM!
ボフ
BOOF
DODGE
DODGE
ボフ
BOOF
ボフ
BOOF
DAMMIT! HE DODGED IT ALL!!
CALM DOWN...
BEFORE YOU DESTROY YOUR OWN HOUSE!

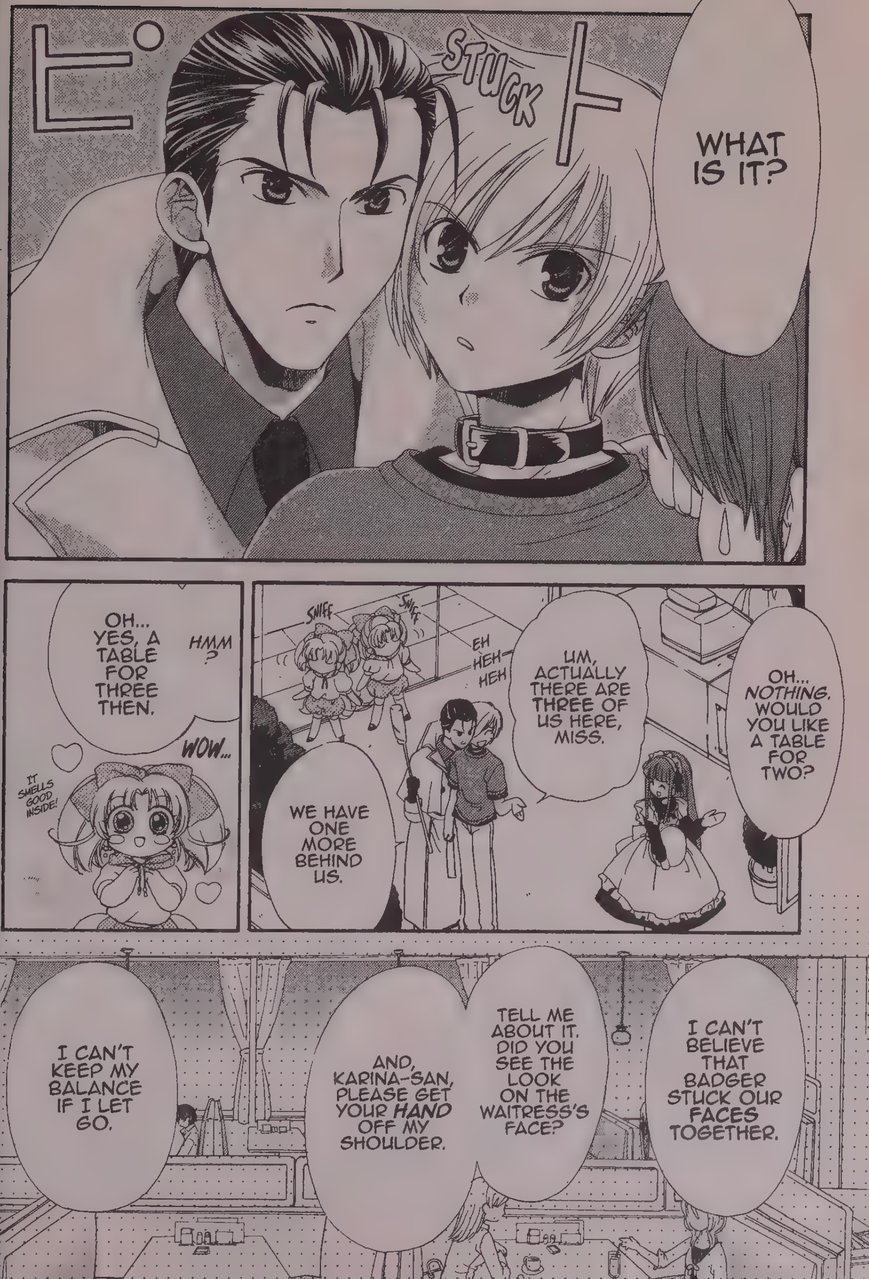

OWW ...
HE...
HE SAVED ME.
LITTLE ME...
WHAT THE--?! I'M DETACHED FROM THE BED!
BOTH OF YOU, WATCH OUT!!

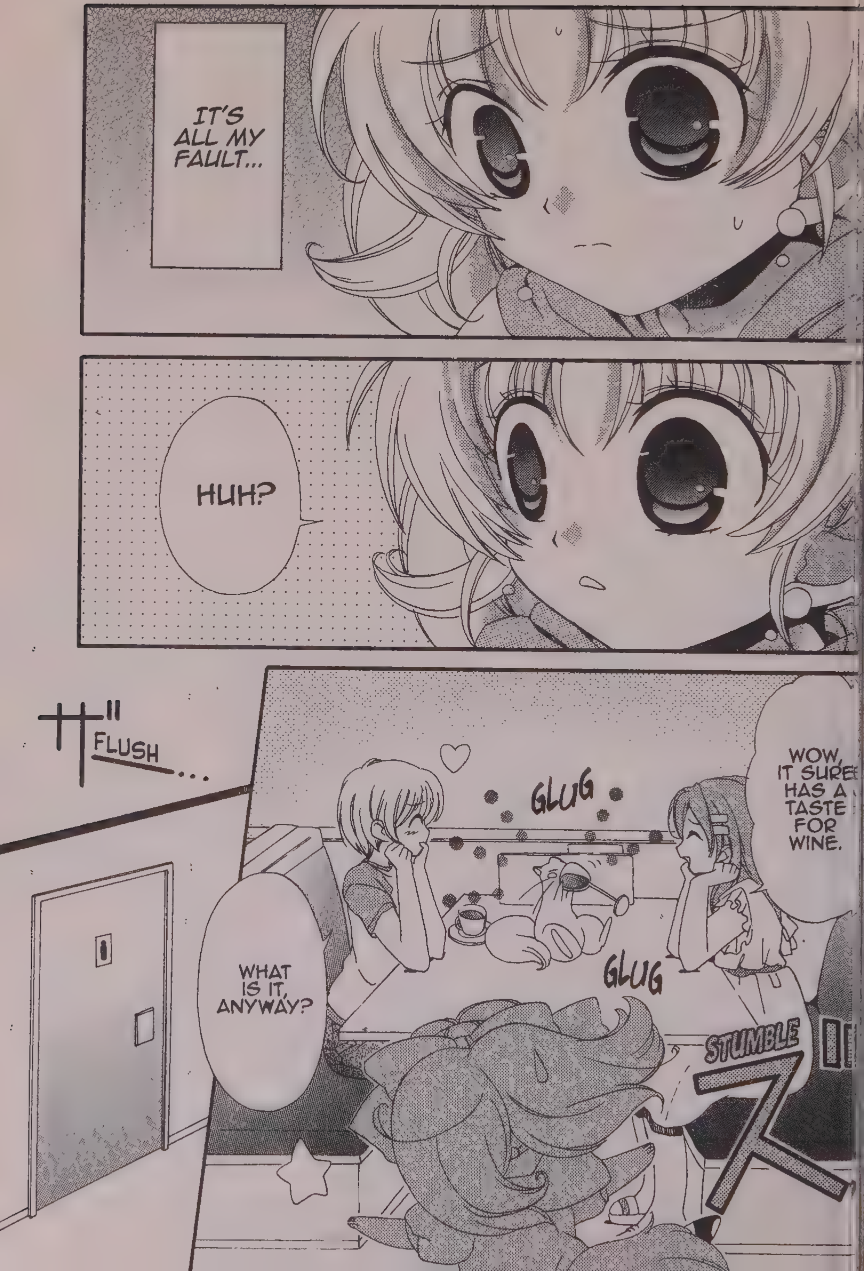

!
I'M GONNA FALL!
TOMOHANE!
WHUD
EEK!
BUMP
HMM ...?

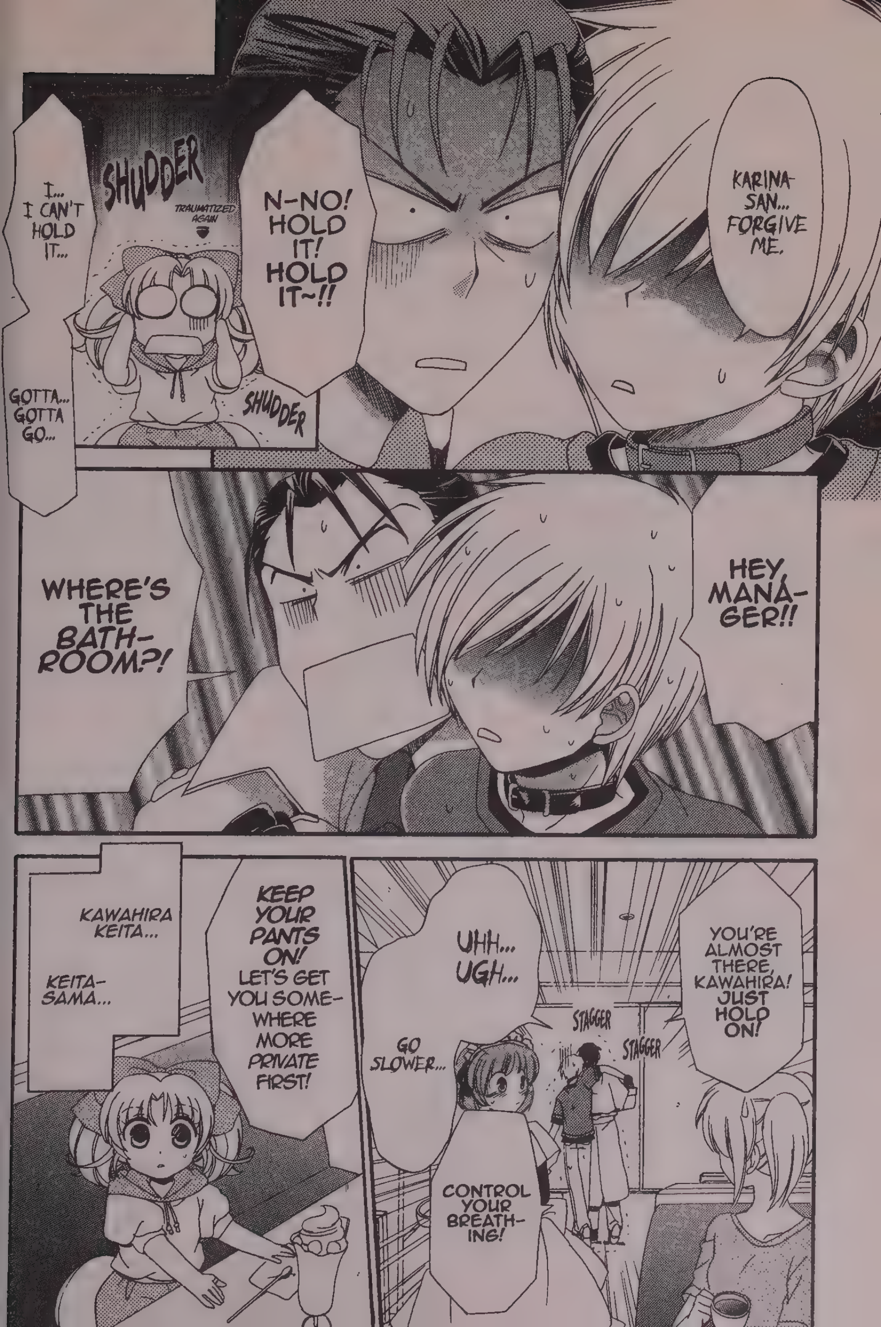

バビュ
VROOM!
DO YOU REALLY SENSE ITS PRESENCE HERE?
YES.
POSITIVE.
in→
EH?
HI, WELCOME TO--
ガ FWOOSH

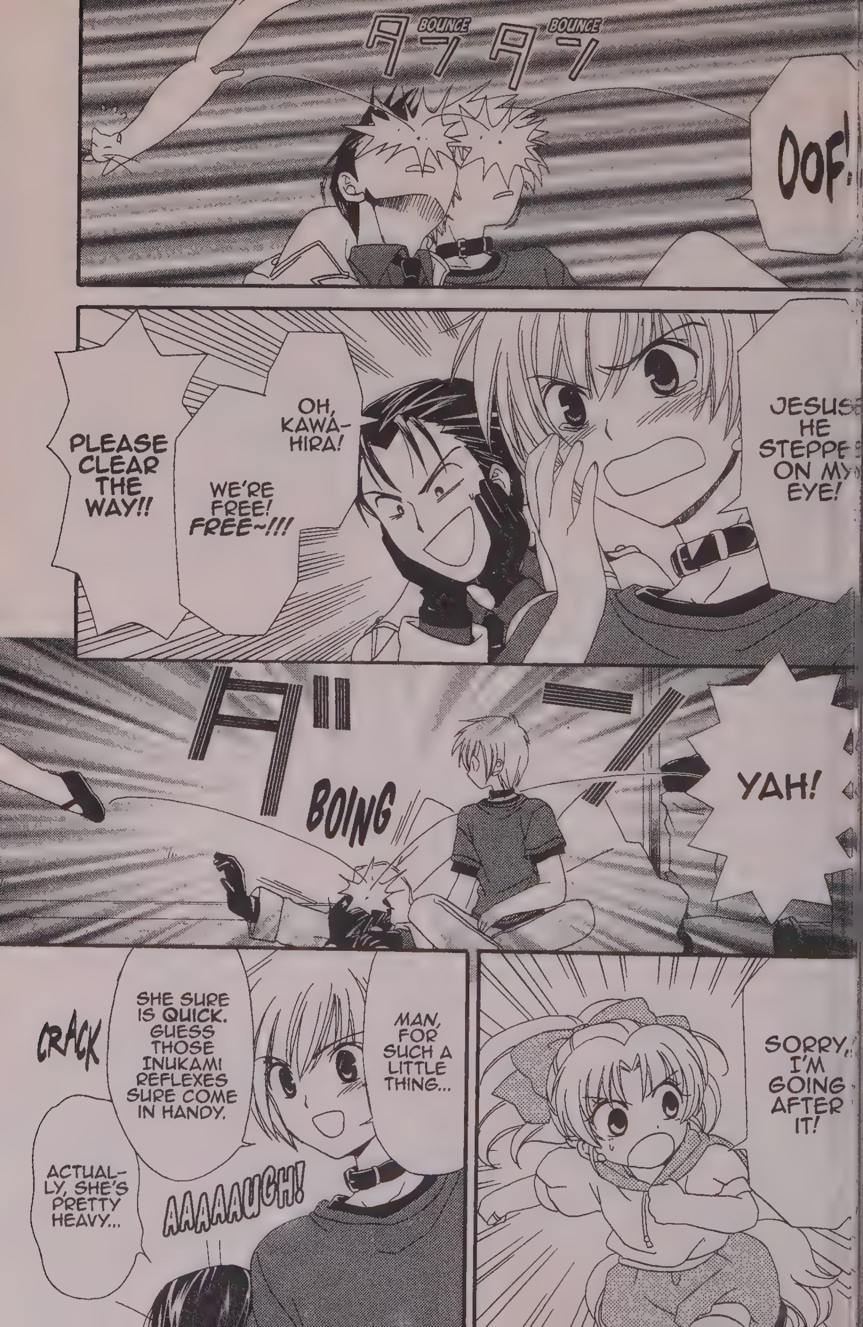

OOF!
CRASH
OUCH!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
SORRY, I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO CHOOSE WHERE TO LAND!
HMM? WHAT? WHAT'S THIS?!
OH MY GOD!
MUJINA-SAN'S GETTING AWAY!!

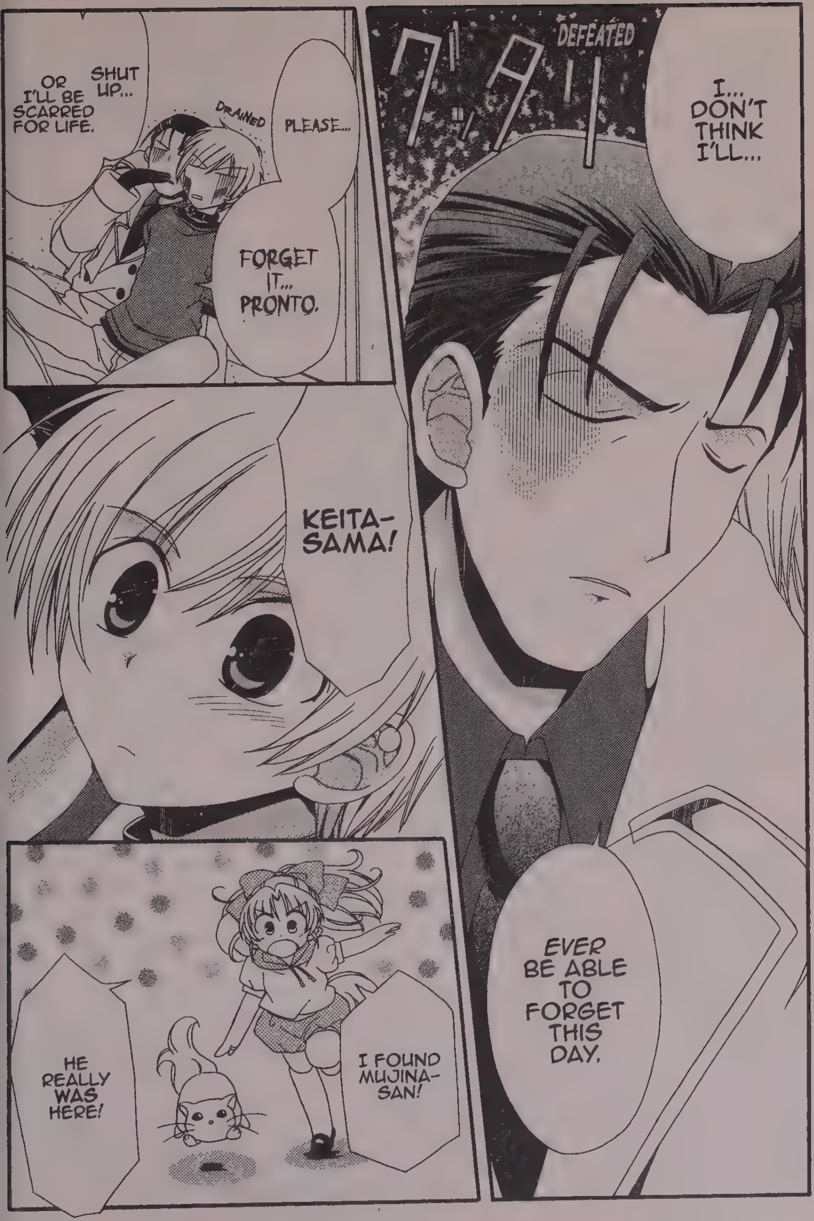

BUT I DO FEEL HIS PRESENCE HERE.
HE MUST BE HIDING SOMEWHERE...
WE SHOULD BE DISCREET AND ASK THE MANAGER FOR HELP.
ちう SLURP ちう SLURP
ズズ SIP ズズ SIP
UMM, KEITA-SAMA...
DON'T STARE!
WHAT?
DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA...
FOR YOU TO BE DRINKING SOMETHING COLD?
OH, I'M PRETTY SURE I GOT EVERYTHING OUT OF MY SYSTEM ALREADY.
ぎゅるー GURGLE
ぎゅるるるるる GUUUUURGLE

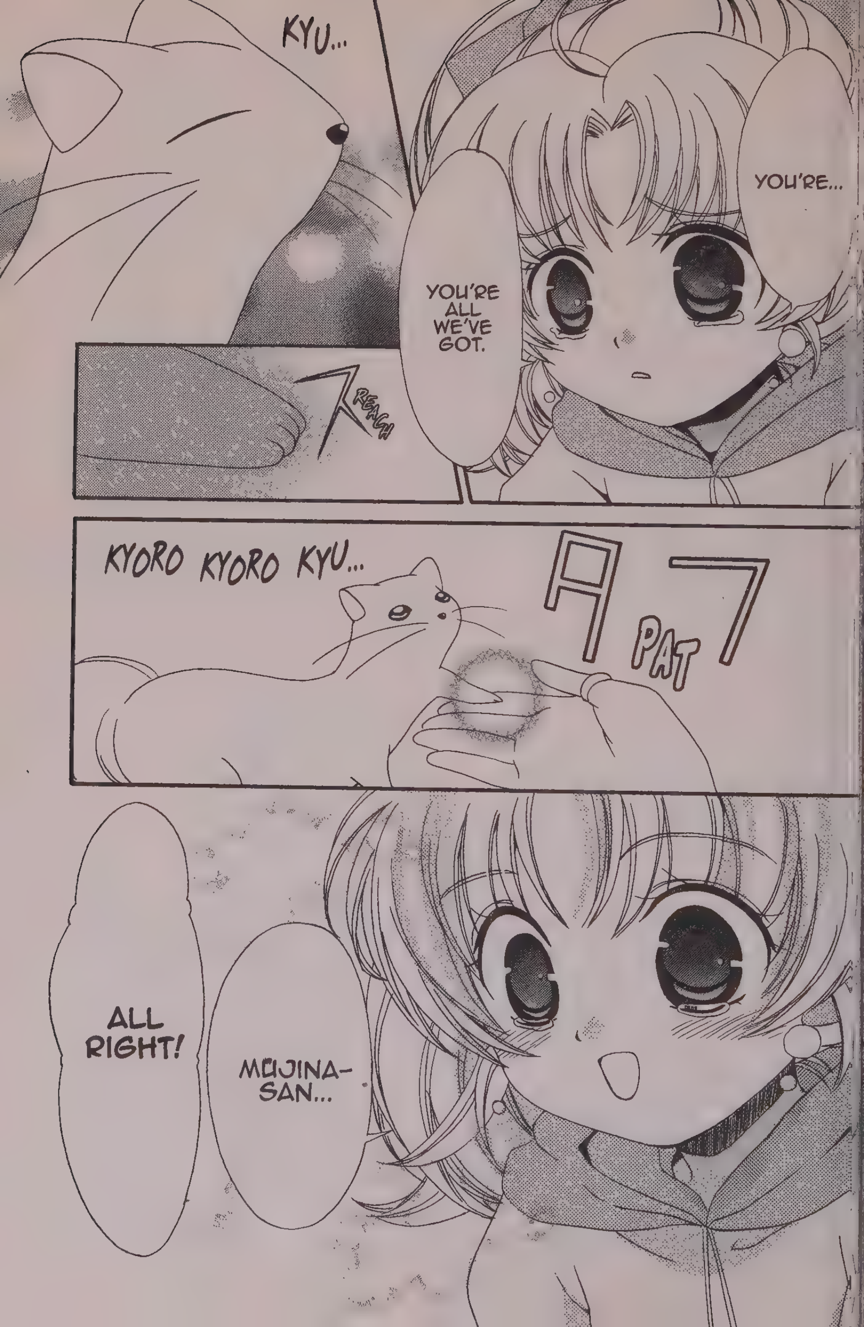

WHAT IS IT?
ピト
STUCK
OH... *NOTHING*. WOULD YOU LIKE A TABLE FOR TWO?
UM, ACTUALLY THERE ARE THREE OF US HERE, MISS.
EH HEH HEH
WE HAVE ONE MORE BEHIND US.
SNIFF
SNIFF
HMM?
OH... YES, A TABLE FOR THREE THEN.
WOW...
IT SMELLS GOOD INSIDE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT BADGER STUCK OUR FACES TOGETHER.
TELL ME ABOUT IT. DID YOU SEE THE LOOK ON THE WAITRESS'S FACE?
AND, KARINA-SAN, PLEASE GET YOUR *HAND* OFF MY SHOULDER.
I CAN'T KEEP MY BALANCE IF I LET GO.

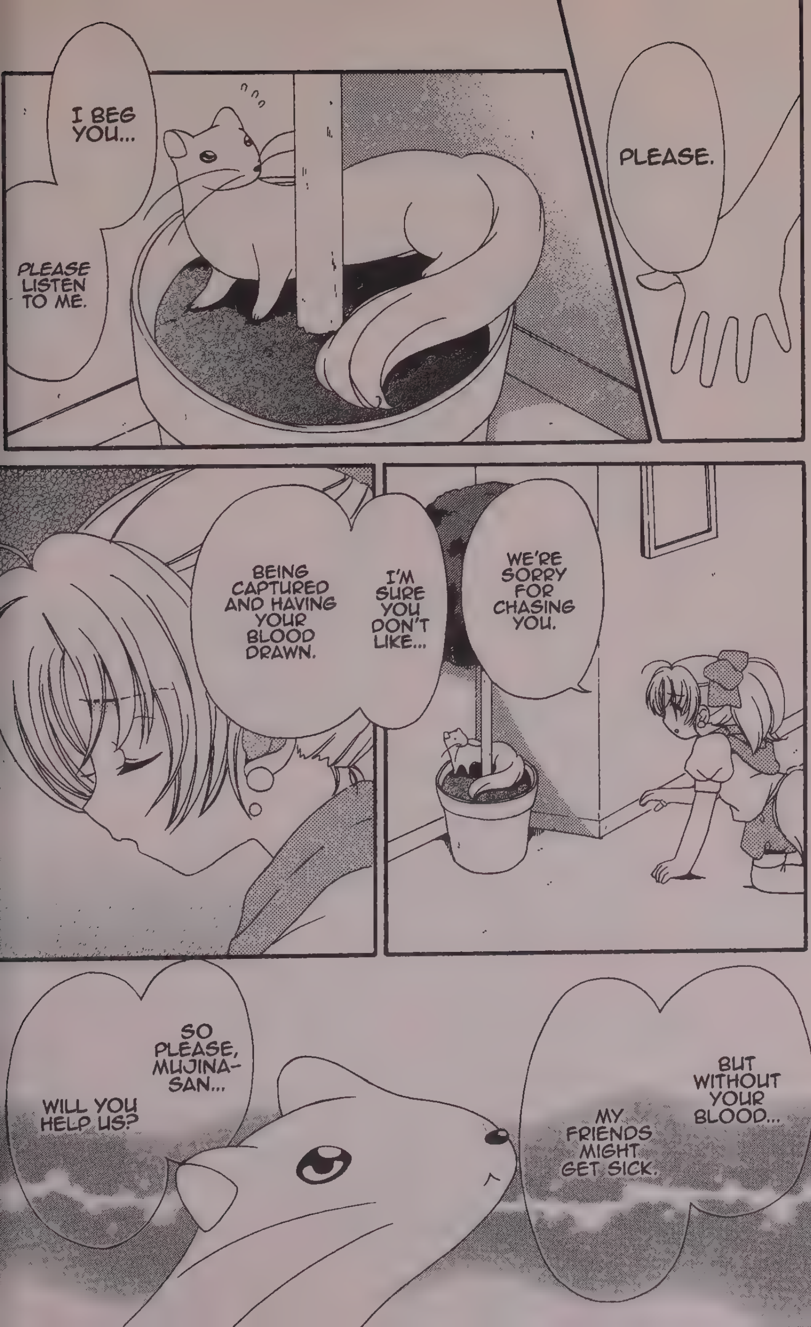

IT'S ALL MY FAULT...
HUH?
WOW, IT SURE HAS A TASTE FOR WINE.
GLUG
GLUG
WHAT IS IT, ANYWAY?
STUMBLE
FLUSH...

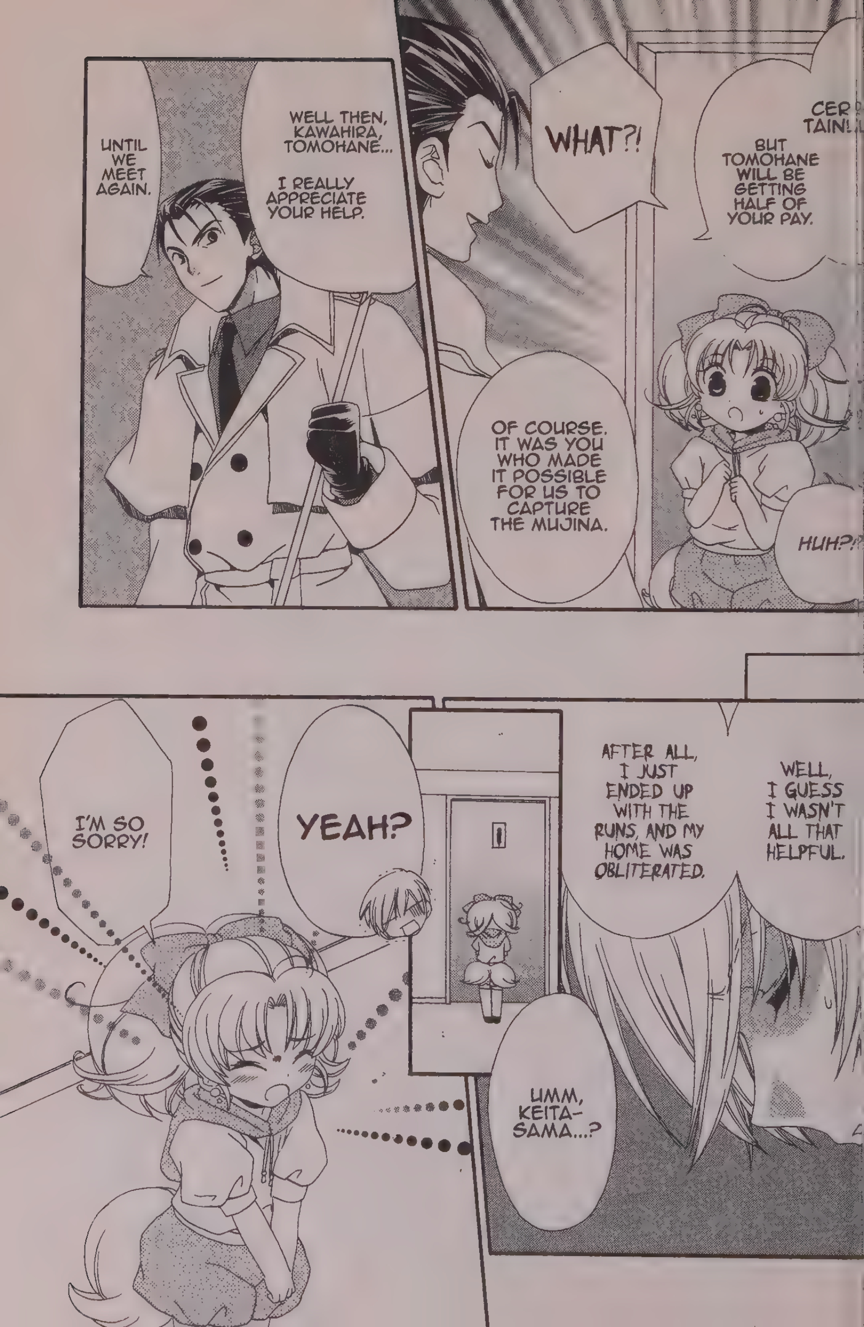

KARINA-SAN... FORGIVE ME.
N-NO! HOLD IT! HOLD IT~!!
SHUDDER
TRAUMATIZED AGAIN
I... I CAN'T HOLD IT...
GOTTA... GOTTA GO...
SHUDDER
HEY MANAGER!!
WHERE'S THE BATHROOM?!
YOU'RE ALMOST THERE, KAWAHIRA! JUST HOLD ON!
STAGGER
STAGGER
UHH... UGH...
GO SLOWER...
CONTROL YOUR BREATHING!
KEEP YOUR PANTS ON! LET'S GET YOU SOMEWHERE MORE PRIVATE FIRST!
KAWAHIRA KEITA...
KEITA-SAMA...

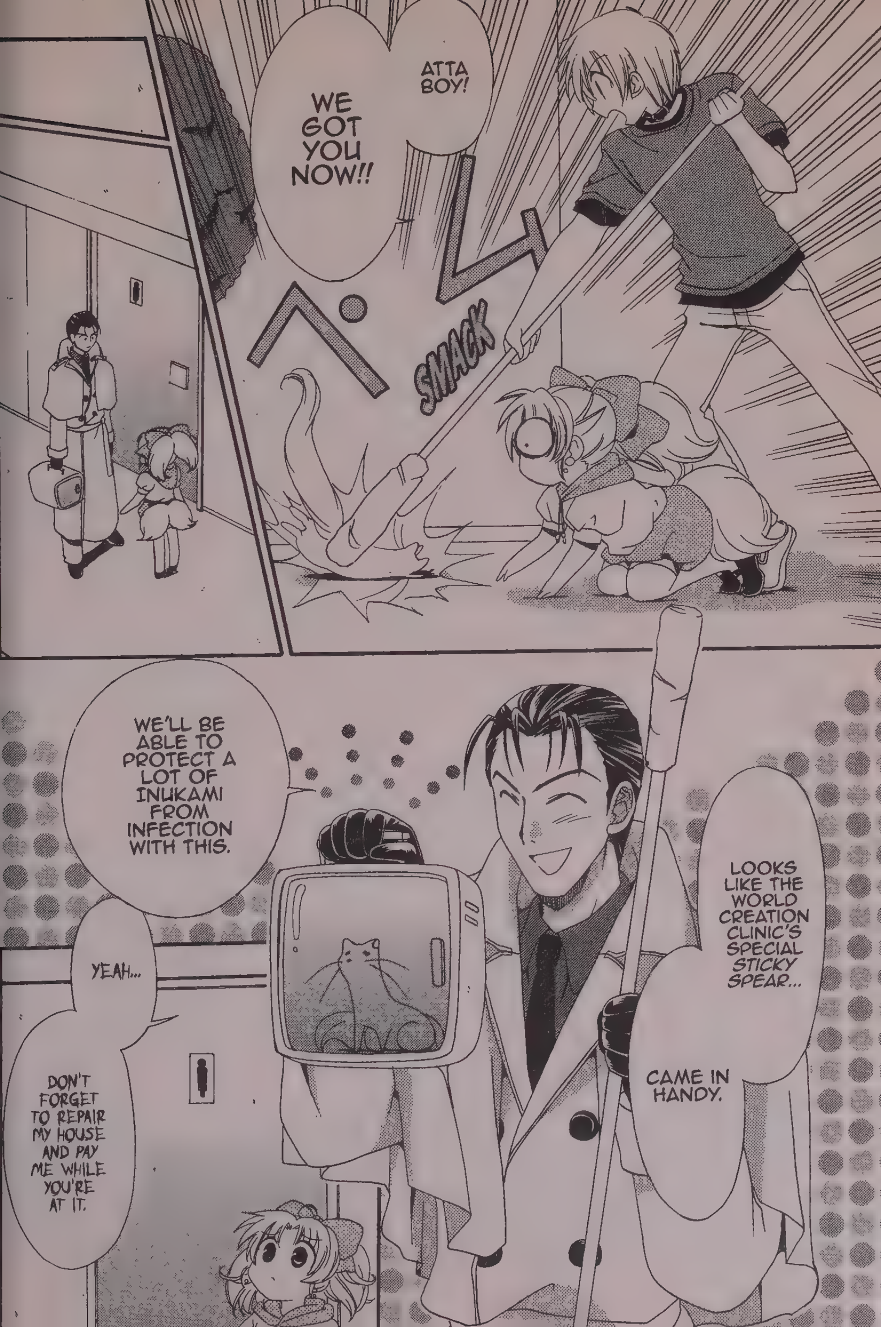

BOUNCE
BOUNCE
OOF!
JESUS HE STEPPE ON MY EYE!
OH, KAWA-HIRA!
WE'RE FREE! FREE~!!!
PLEASE CLEAR THE WAY!!
YAH!
BOING
SORRY, I'M GOING AFTER IT!
MAN, FOR SUCH A LITTLE THING...
SHE SURE IS QUICK. GUESS THOSE INUKAMI REFLEXES SURE COME IN HANDY.
CRACK
AAAAAUGH!
ACTUAL-LY, SHE'S PRETTY HEAVY...

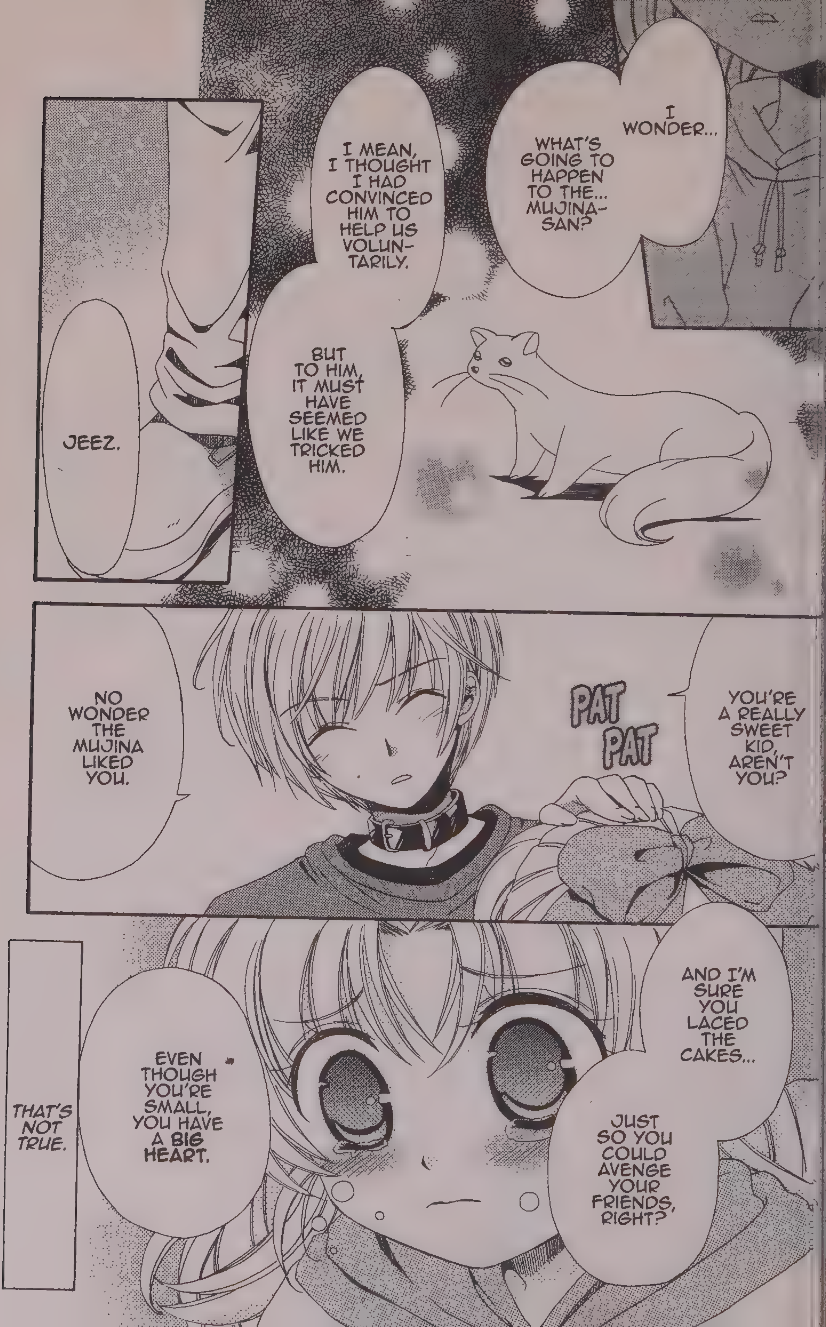

DEFEATED
I... DON'T THINK I'LL...
EVER BE ABLE TO FORGET THIS DAY.
PLEASE...
DRAINED
SHUT UP... OR I'LL BE SCARRED FOR LIFE.
FORGET IT... PRONTO.
KEITA-SAMA!
I FOUND MUJINA-SAN!
HE REALLY WAS HERE!

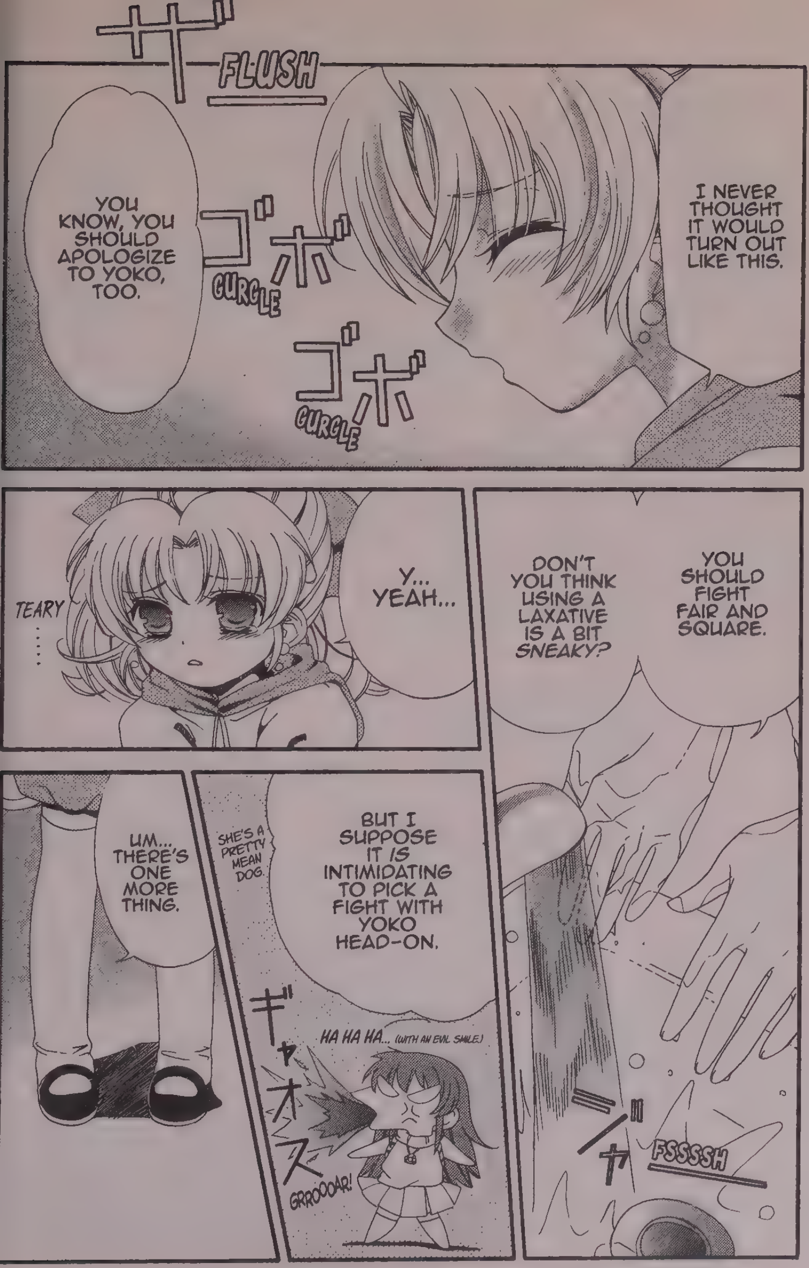

YOU'RE...
KYU...
YOU'RE ALL WE'VE GOT.
REACH
PAT
KYORO KYORO KYU...
MUJINA-SAN...
ALL RIGHT!

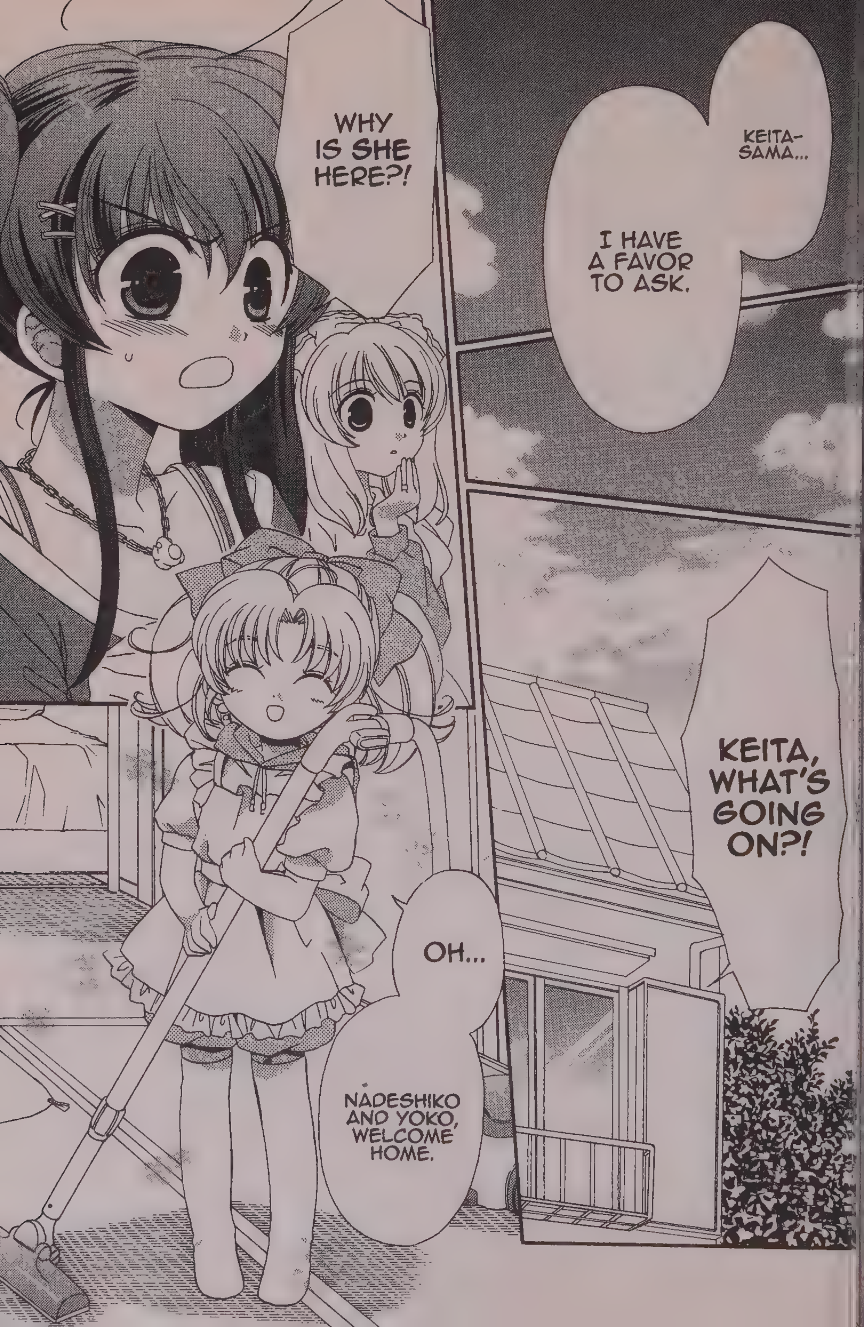

PLEASE.
I BEG YOU...
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME.
WE'RE SORRY FOR CHASING YOU.
I'M SURE YOU DON'T LIKE...
BEING CAPTURED AND HAVING YOUR BLOOD DRAWN.
BUT WITHOUT YOUR BLOOD...
MY FRIENDS MIGHT GET SICK.
SO PLEASE, MUJINA-SAN...
WILL YOU HELP US?

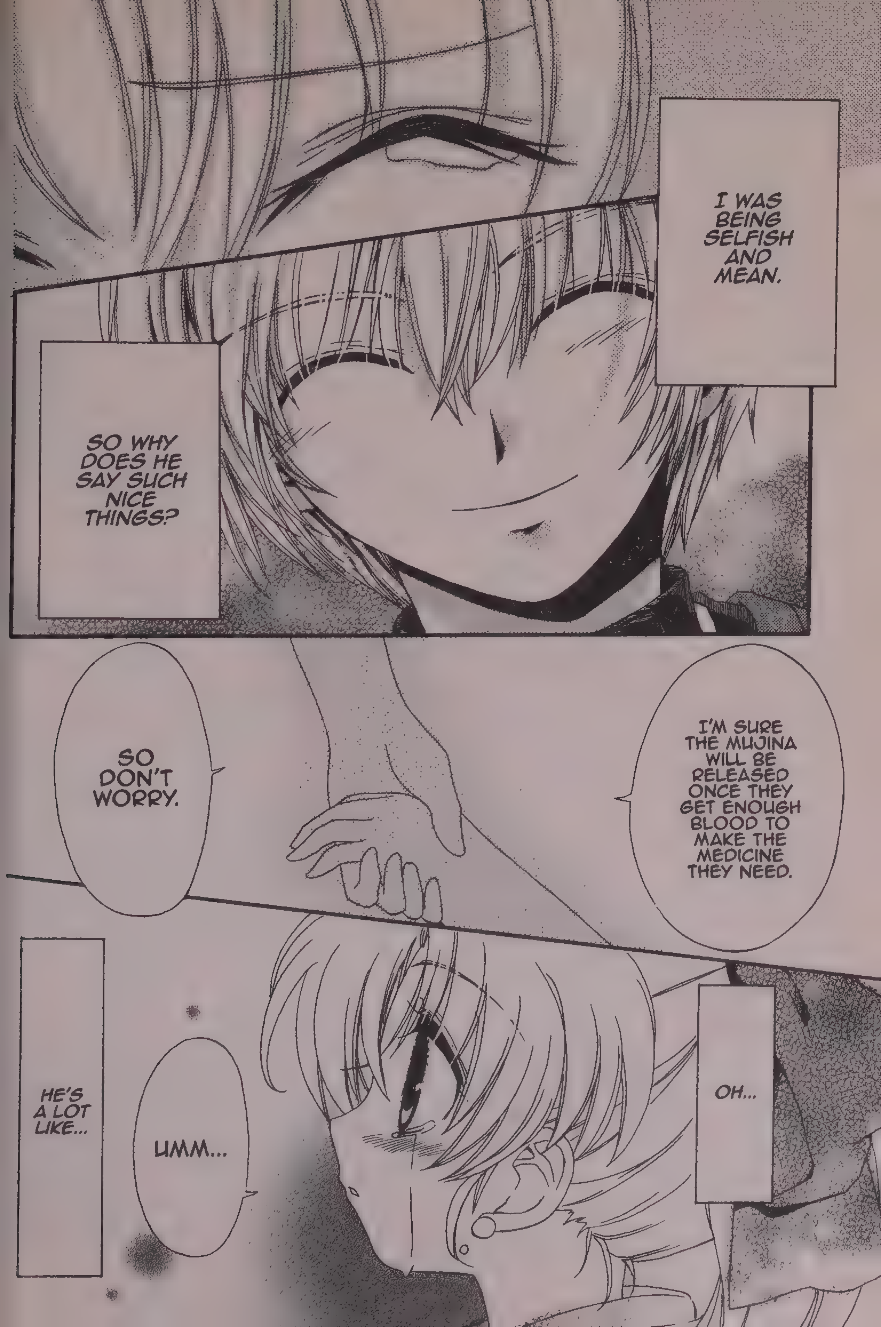

CERTAIN!
BUT TOMOHANE WILL BE GETTING HALF OF YOUR PAY.
WHAT?!
OF COURSE. IT WAS YOU WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO CAPTURE THE MUJINA.
HUH?!?
WELL THEN, KAWAHIRA, TOMOHANE... I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.
WELL, I GUESS I WASN'T ALL THAT HELPFUL.
AFTER ALL, I JUST ENDED UP WITH THE RUNS, AND MY HOME WAS OBLITERATED.
UMM, KEITA-SAMA...?
YEAH?
I'M SO SORRY!

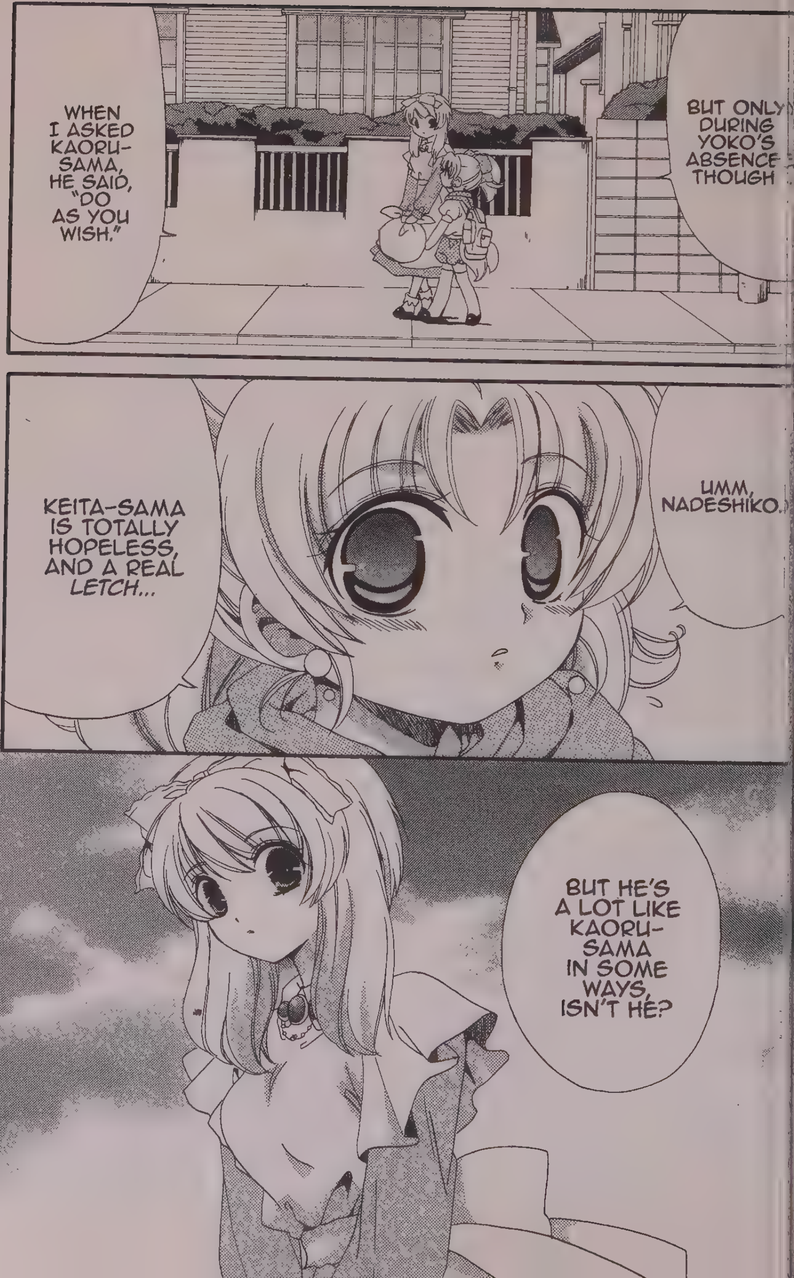

ATTA BOY!
WE GOT YOU NOW!!
SMACK
LOOKS LIKE THE WORLD CREATION CLINIC'S SPECIAL STICKY SPEAR...
CAME IN HANDY.
WE'LL BE ABLE TO PROTECT A LOT OF INUKAMI FROM INFECTION WITH THIS.
YEAH...
DON'T FORGET TO REPAIR MY HOUSE AND PAY ME WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.

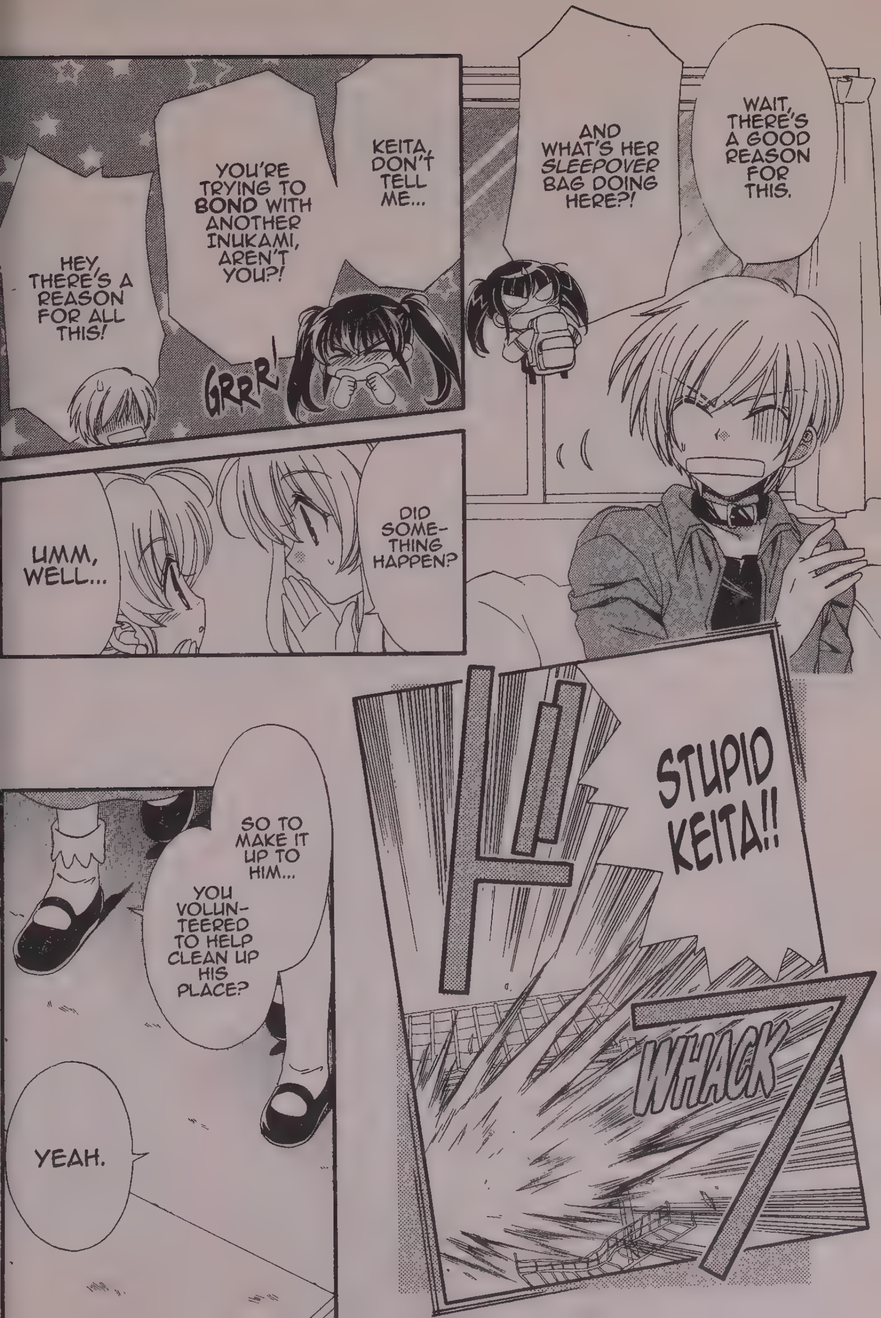

I WONDER... WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE... MUJINA-SAN?
I MEAN, I THOUGHT I HAD CONVINCED HIM TO HELP US VOLUNTARILY.
BUT TO HIM, IT MUST HAVE SEEMED LIKE WE TRICKED HIM.
JEEZ.
YOU'RE A REALLY SWEET KID, AREN'T YOU?
PAT PAT
NO WONDER THE MUJINA LIKED YOU.
AND I'M SURE YOU LACED THE CAKES...
JUST SO YOU COULD AVENGE YOUR FRIENDS, RIGHT?
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SMALL, YOU HAVE A BIG HEART.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.

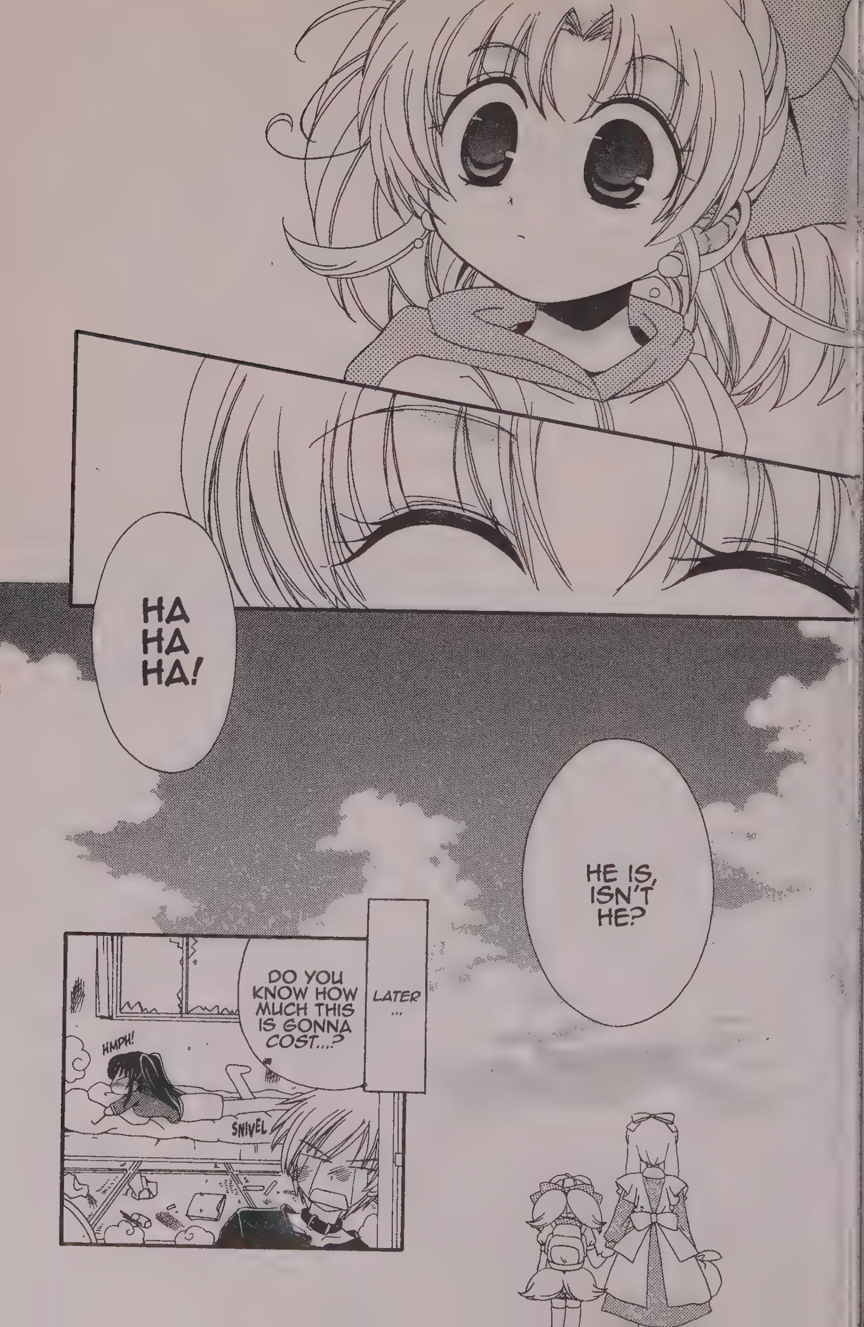

ザザ
FLUSH
I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD TURN OUT LIKE THIS.
ゴボ
GURGLE
ゴボ
GURGLE
YOU KNOW, YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO YOKO, TOO.
YOU SHOULD FIGHT FAIR AND SQUARE.
DON'T YOU THINK USING A LAXATIVE IS A BIT SNEAKY?
Y... YEAH...
TEARY
......
ジャ
FSSSSH
BUT I SUPPOSE IT IS INTIMIDATING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH YOKO HEAD-ON.
SHE'S A PRETTY MEAN DOG.
HA HA HA... (WITH AN EVIL SMILE.)
ギャオス
GRROOOAR!
UM... THERE'S ONE MORE THING.

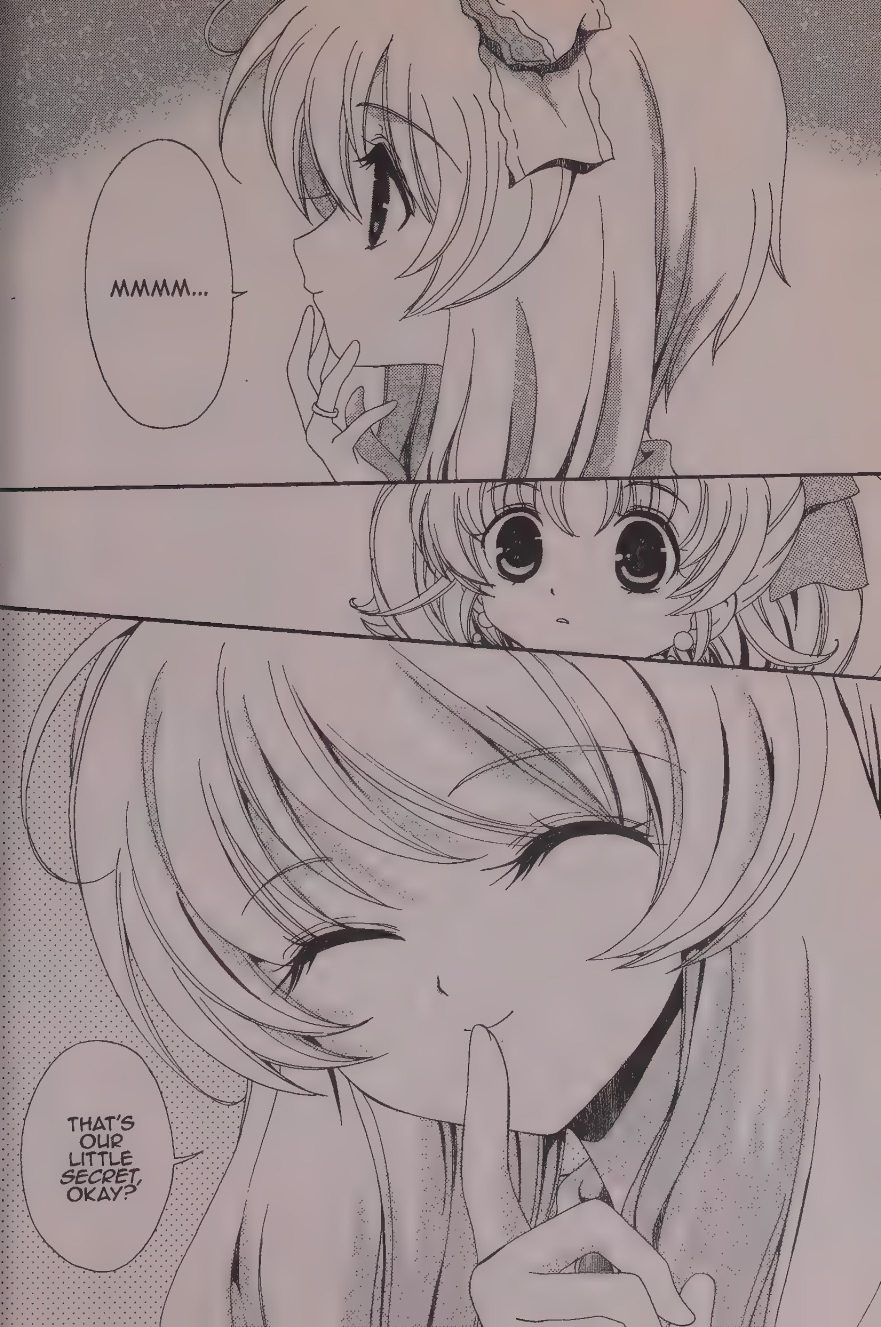

KEITA-SAMA...
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.
WHY IS SHE HERE?!
KEITA, WHAT'S GOING ON?!
OH...
NADESHIKO AND YOKO, WELCOME HOME.

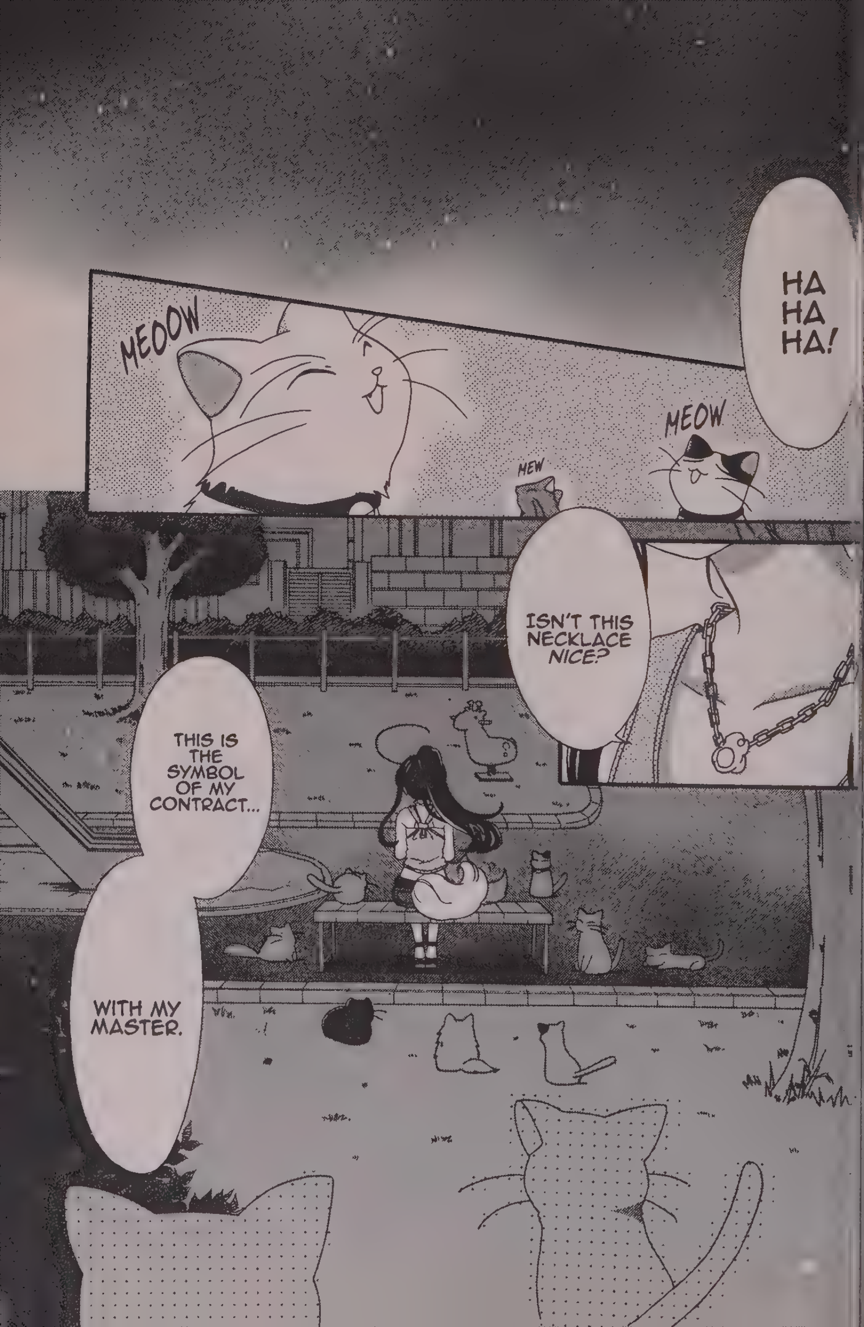

I WAS BEING SELFISH AND MEAN.
SO WHY DOES HE SAY SUCH NICE THINGS?
I'M SURE THE MUJINA WILL BE RELEASED ONCE THEY GET ENOUGH BLOOD TO MAKE THE MEDICINE THEY NEED.
SO DON'T WORRY.
OH...
UMM...
HE'S A LOT LIKE...

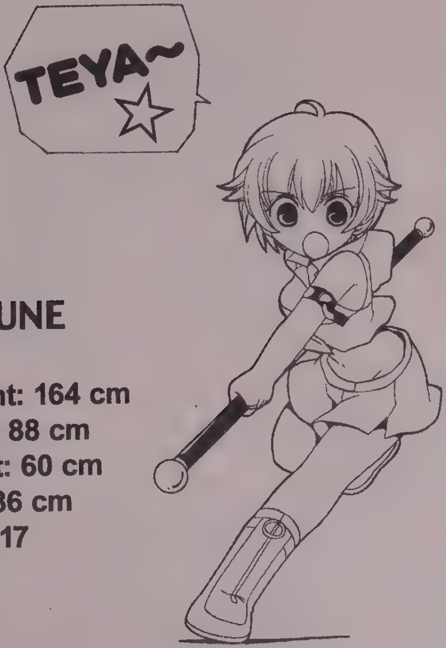

BUT ONLY DURING YOKO'S ABSENCE THOUGH
WHEN I ASKED KAORU-SAMA, HE SAID, "DO AS YOU WISH."
UMM, NADESHIKO.
KEITA-SAMA IS TOTALLY HOPELESS, AND A REAL LETCH...
BUT HE'S A LOT LIKE KAORU-SAMA IN SOME WAYS, ISN'T HE?


WAIT, THERE'S A GOOD REASON FOR THIS.
AND WHAT'S HER SLEEPOVER BAG DOING HERE?!
KEITA, DON'T TELL ME...
YOU'RE TRYING TO BOND WITH ANOTHER INUKAMI, AREN'T YOU?!
GRRR!
HEY, THERE'S A REASON FOR ALL THIS!
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
UMM, WELL...
STUPID KEITA!!
WHACK
SO TO MAKE IT UP TO HIM...
YOU VOLUNTEERED TO HELP CLEAN UP HIS PLACE?
YEAH.


HA HA HA!
HE IS, ISN'T HE?
LATER ...
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH THIS IS GONNA COST...?
HMPH!
SNIVEL


MMMM...
THAT'S OUR LITTLE SECRET, OKAY?

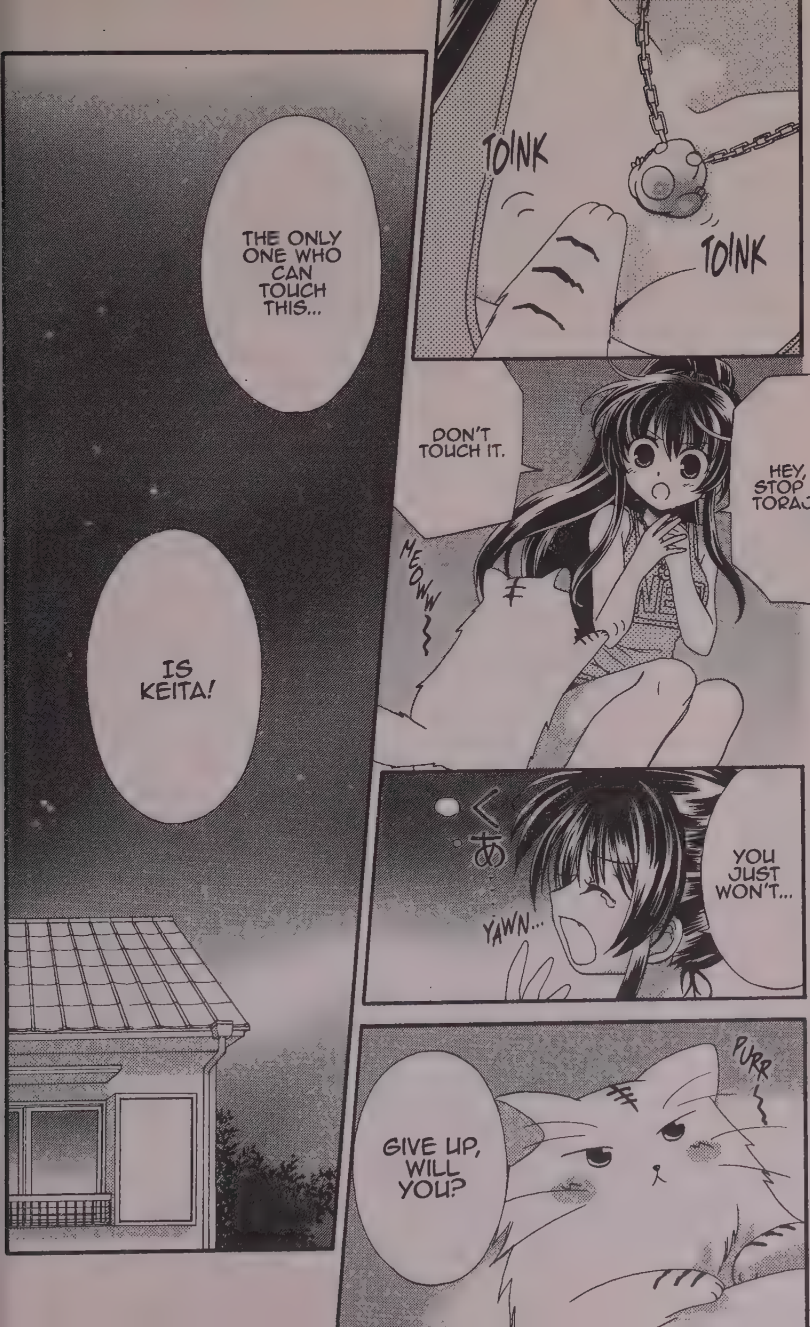

HA HA HA!
MEOOW
MEOW
MEW
ISN'T THIS NECKLACE NICE?
THIS IS THE SYMBOL OF MY CONTRACT...
WITH MY MASTER.

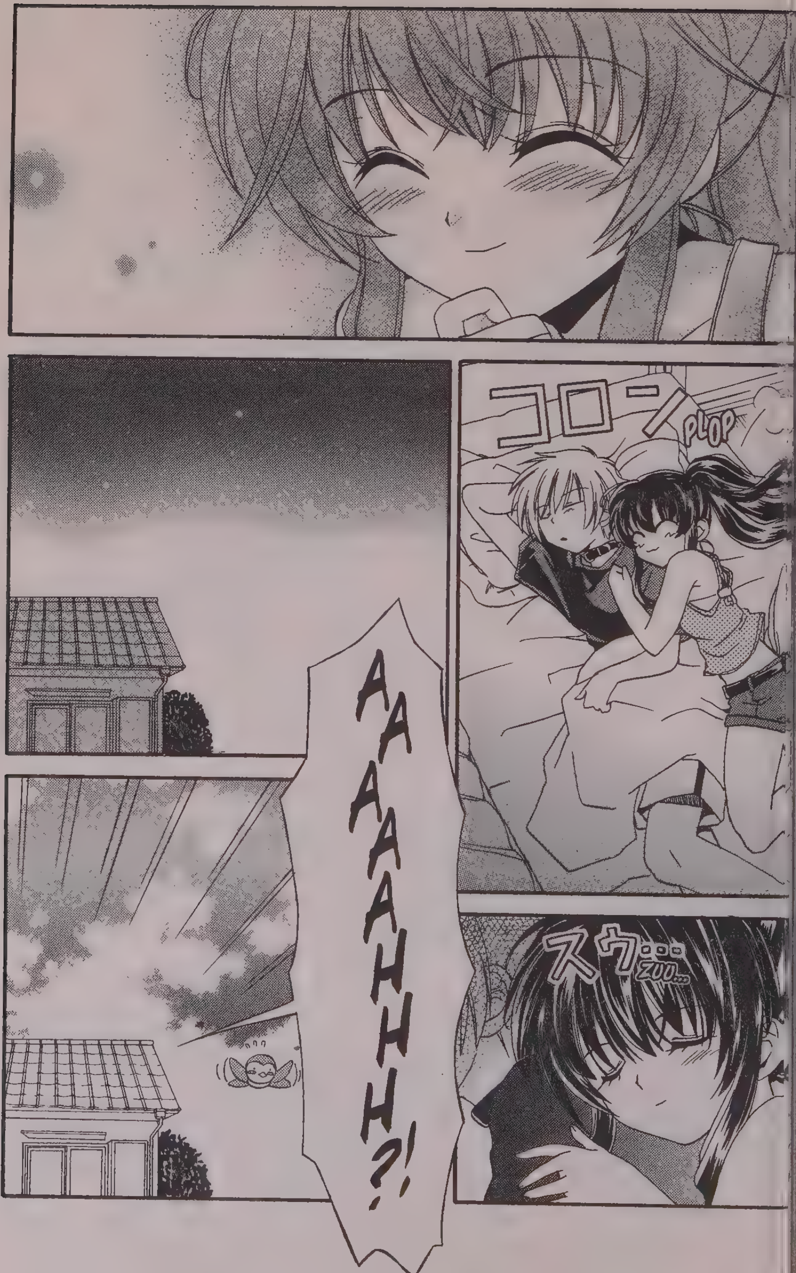


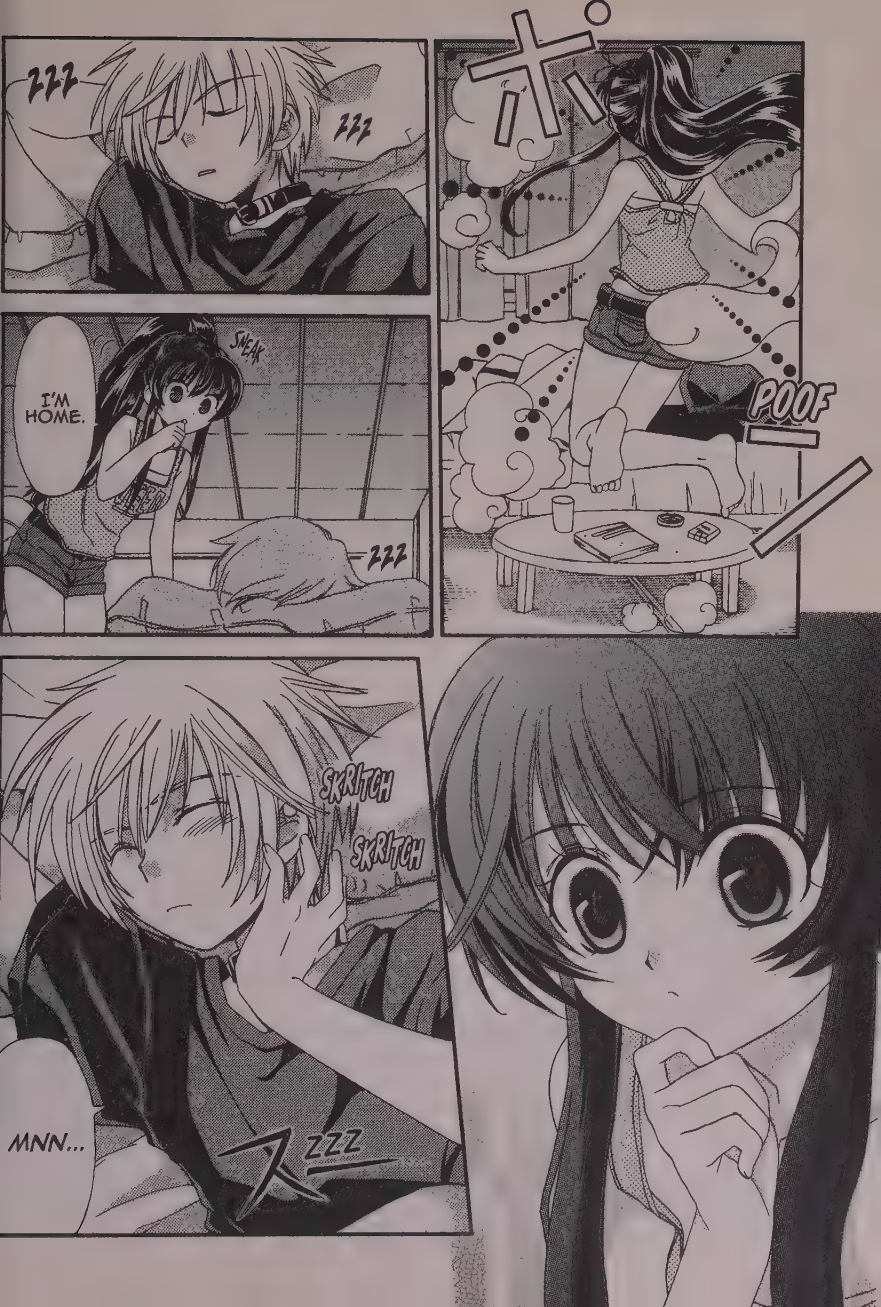
TAYUNE

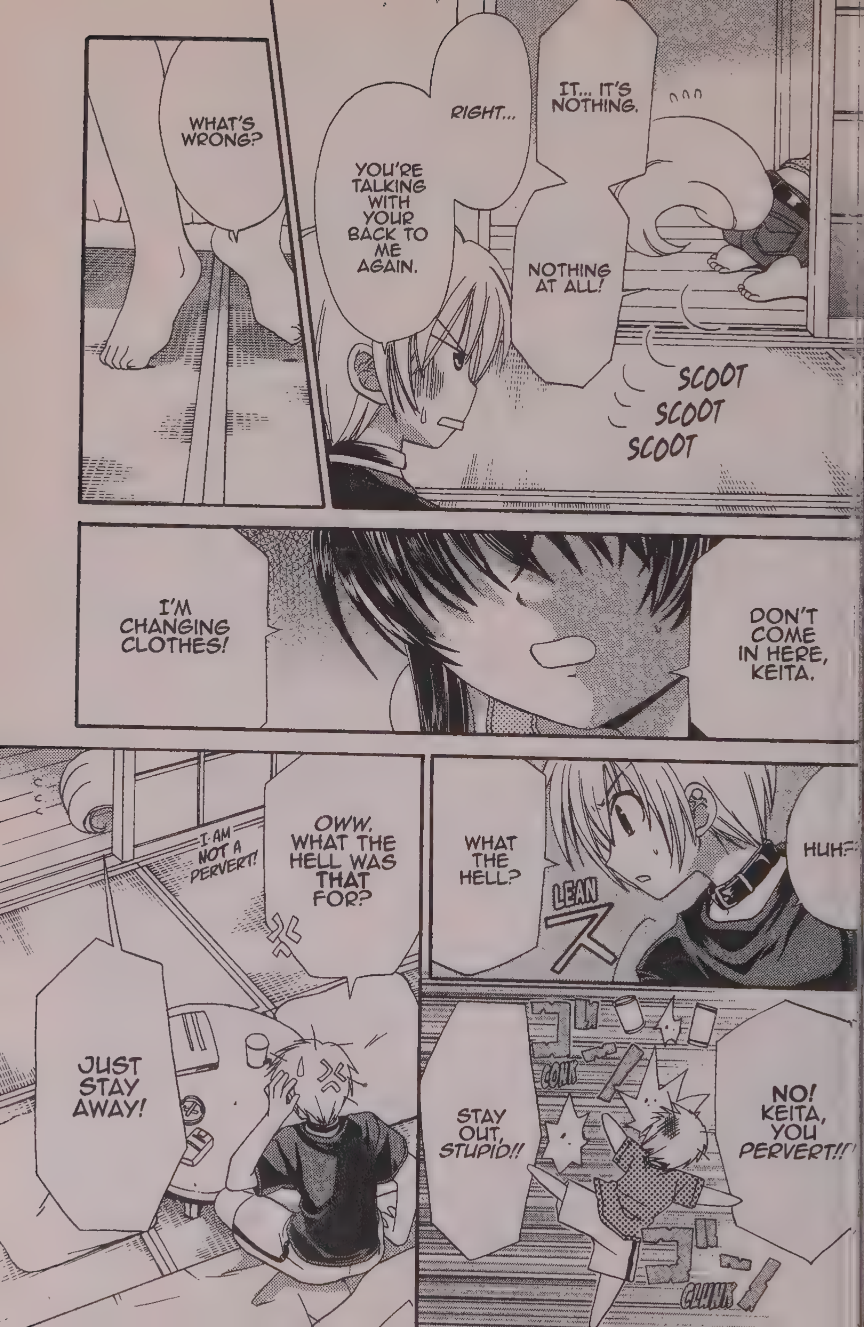
Height: 164 cm
Bust: 88 cm
Waist: 60 cm
Hip: 86 cm
Age: 17

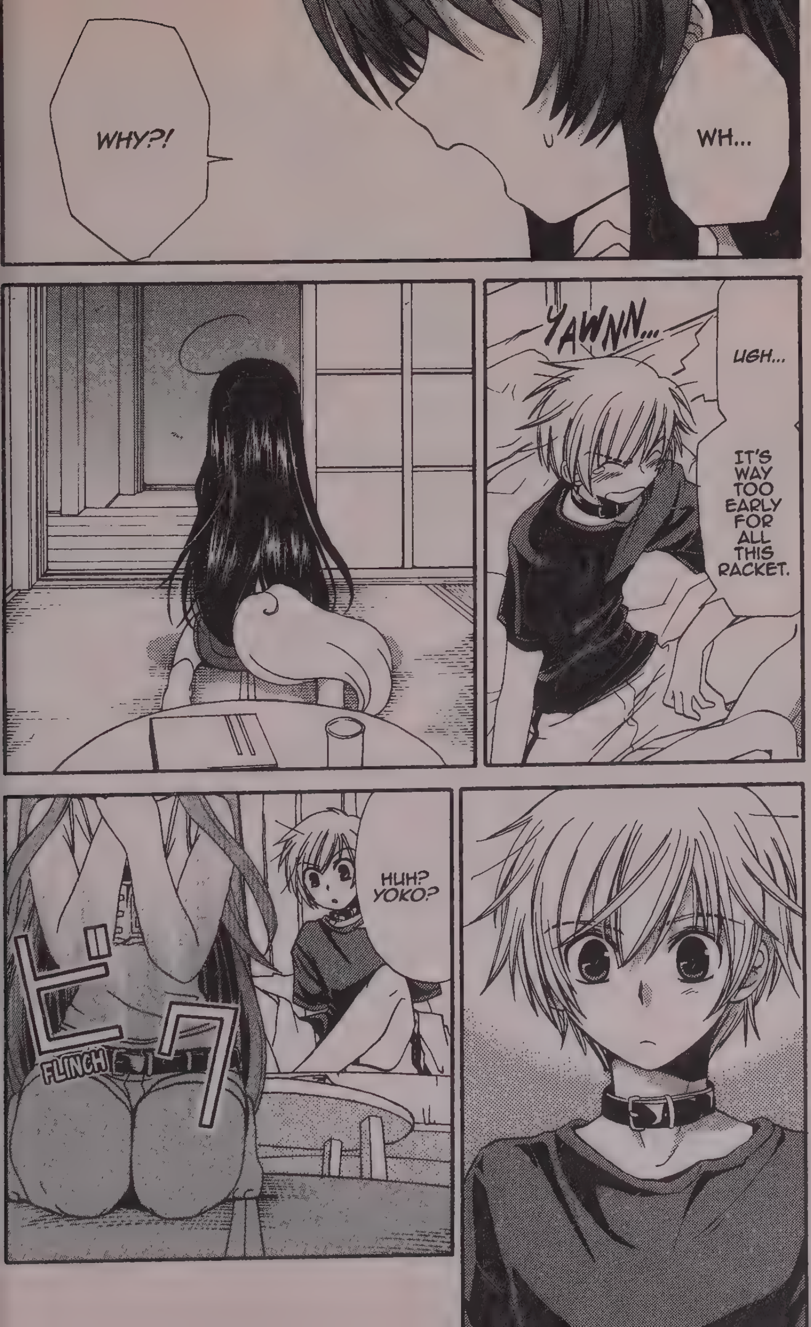
STEP.10 YOKO'S MISSING OBJECT

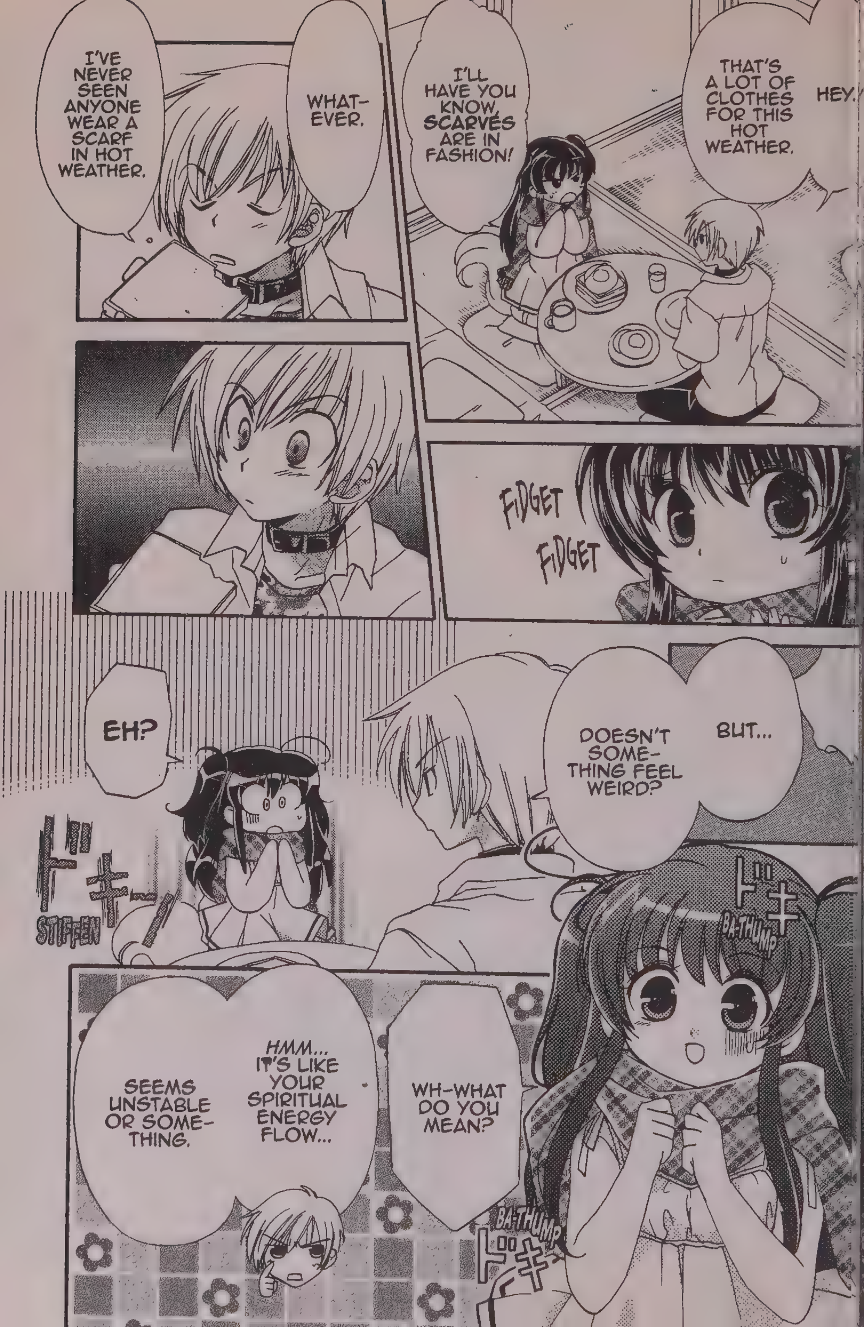

TOINK
TOINK
HEY, STOP IT, TORAJI!
MEOWW
DON'T TOUCH IT.
YOU JUST WON'T...
くあ
YAWN...
PURR
GIVE UP, WILL YOU?
THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TOUCH THIS...
IS KEITA!

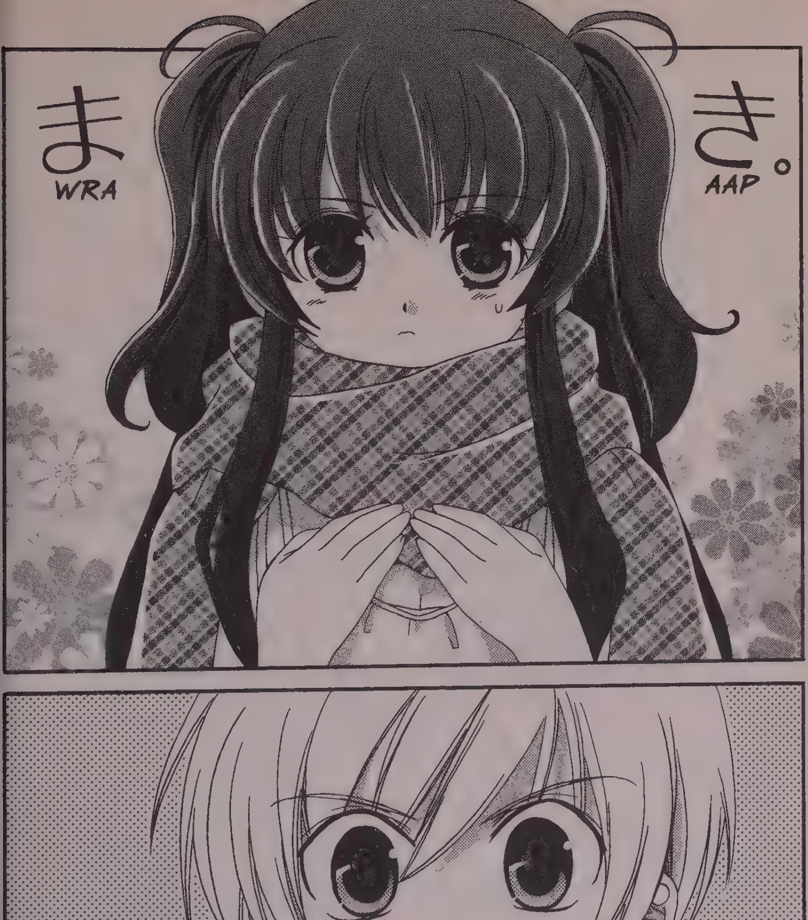

コローン
PLOP
スウ…
ZUU…
AAAAAHHH?!

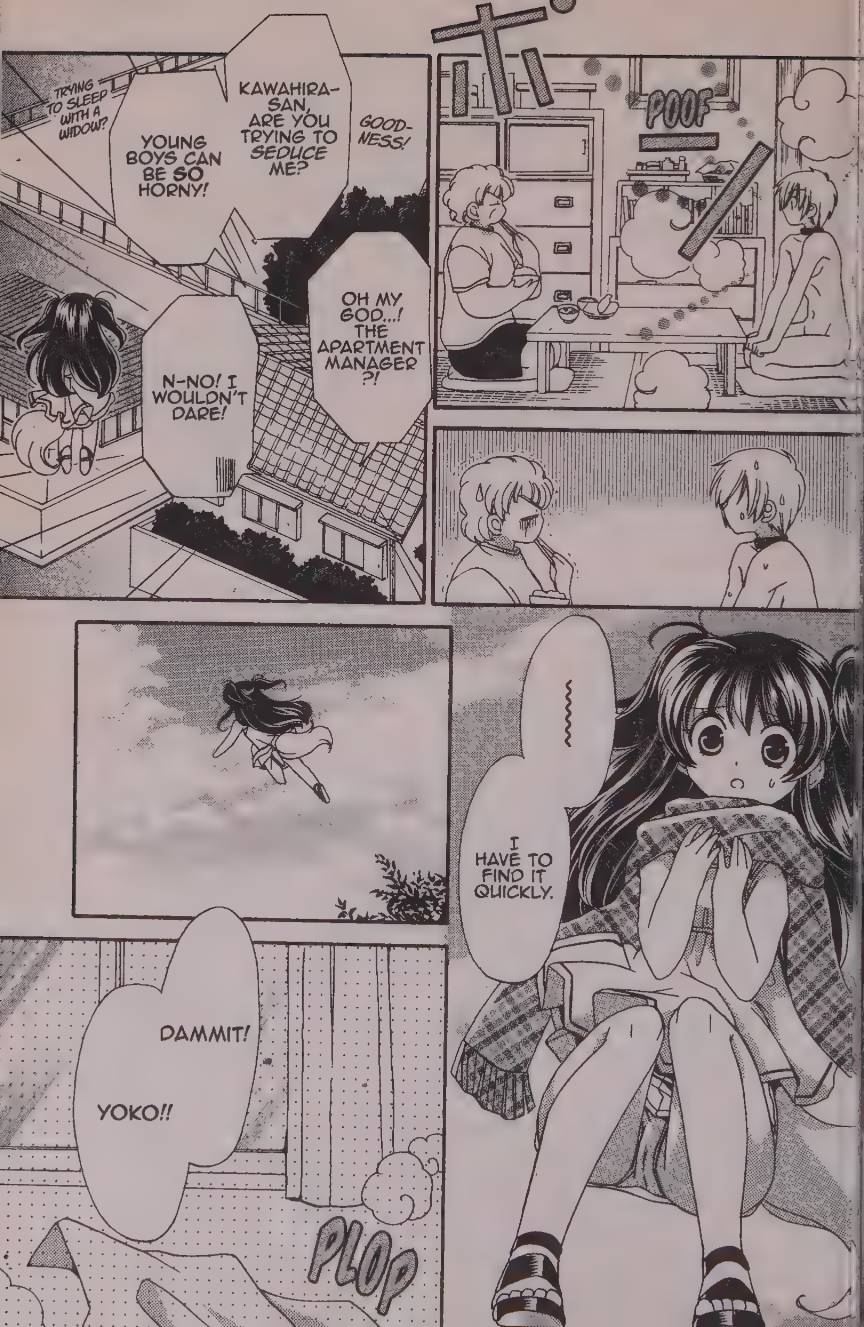

POOF
ZZZ
ZZZ
SNEAK
I'M HOME.
ZZZ
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
MNN...
ZZZ

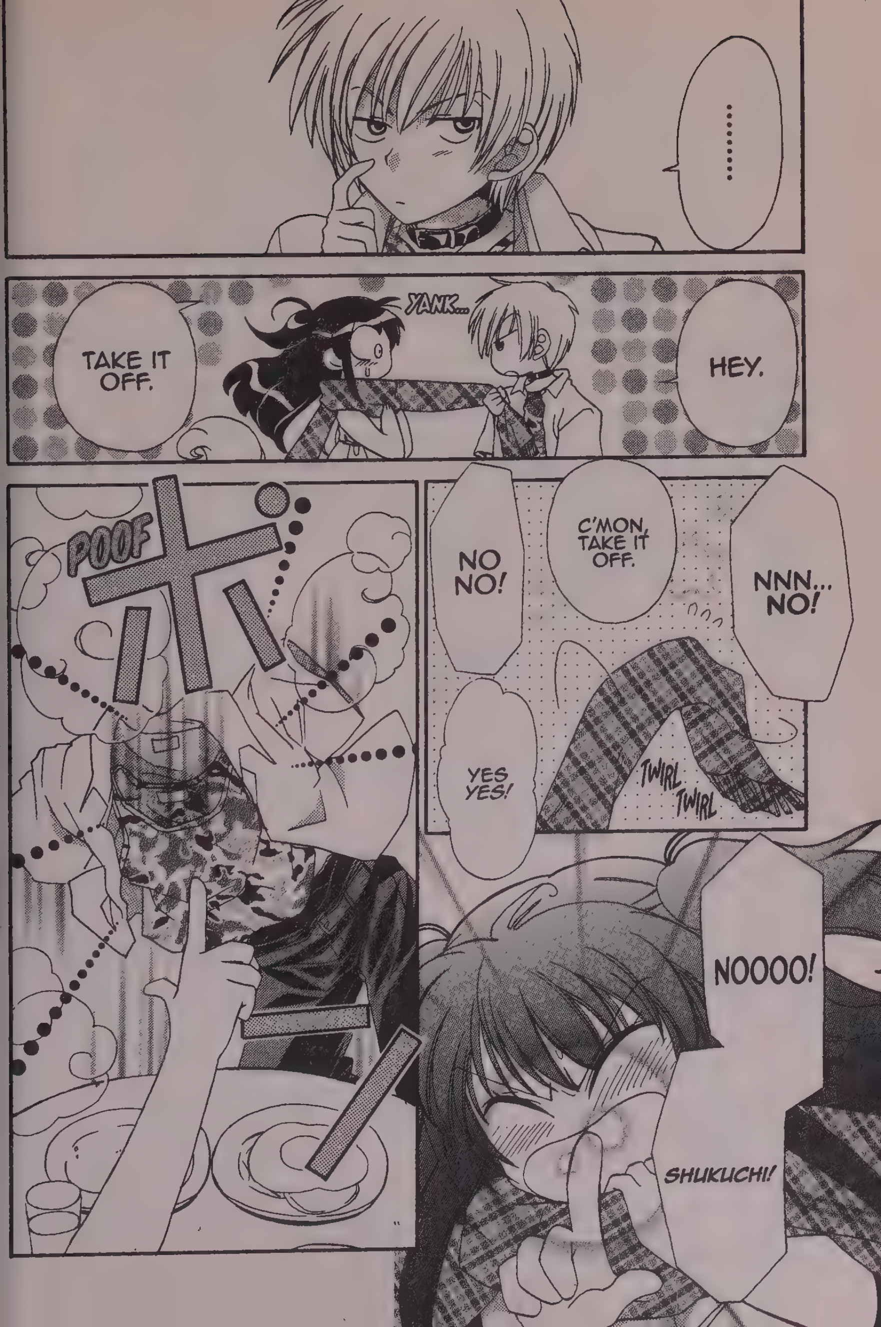

IT... IT'S NOTHING.
NOTHING AT ALL!
SCOOT SCOOT SCOOT
RIGHT...
YOU'RE TALKING WITH YOUR BACK TO ME AGAIN.
WHAT'S WRONG?
DON'T COME IN HERE, KEITA.
I'M CHANGING CLOTHES!
HUH?
LEAN
WHAT THE HELL?
NO! KEITA, YOU PERVERT!!
STAY OUT, STUPID!!
CONK
CLUNK
OWW. WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT FOR?
I AM NOT A PERVERT!
JUST STAY AWAY!

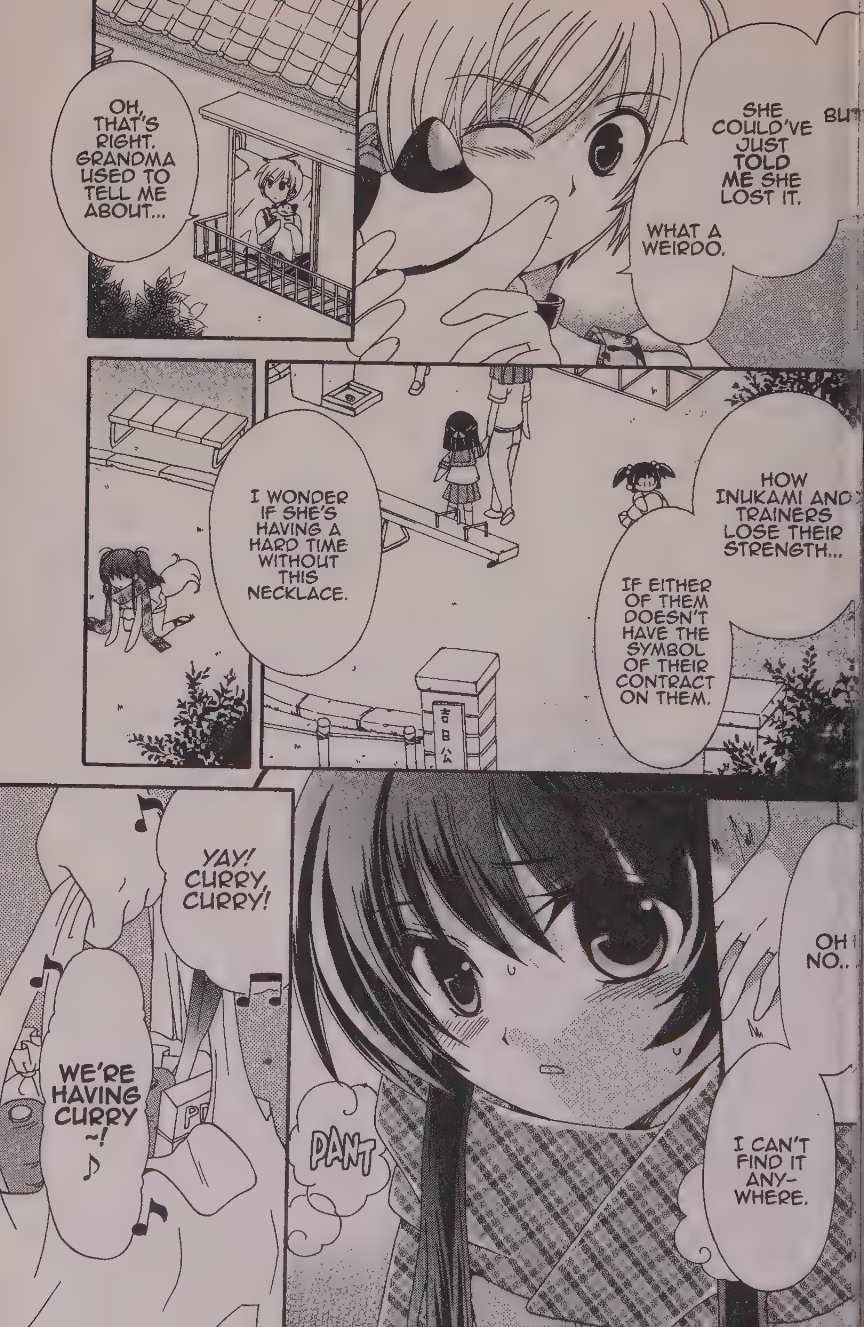

WH...
WHY?!
YAWNN...
UGH...
IT'S WAY TOO EARLY FOR ALL THIS RACKET.
HUH? YOKO?
ビク
FLINCH

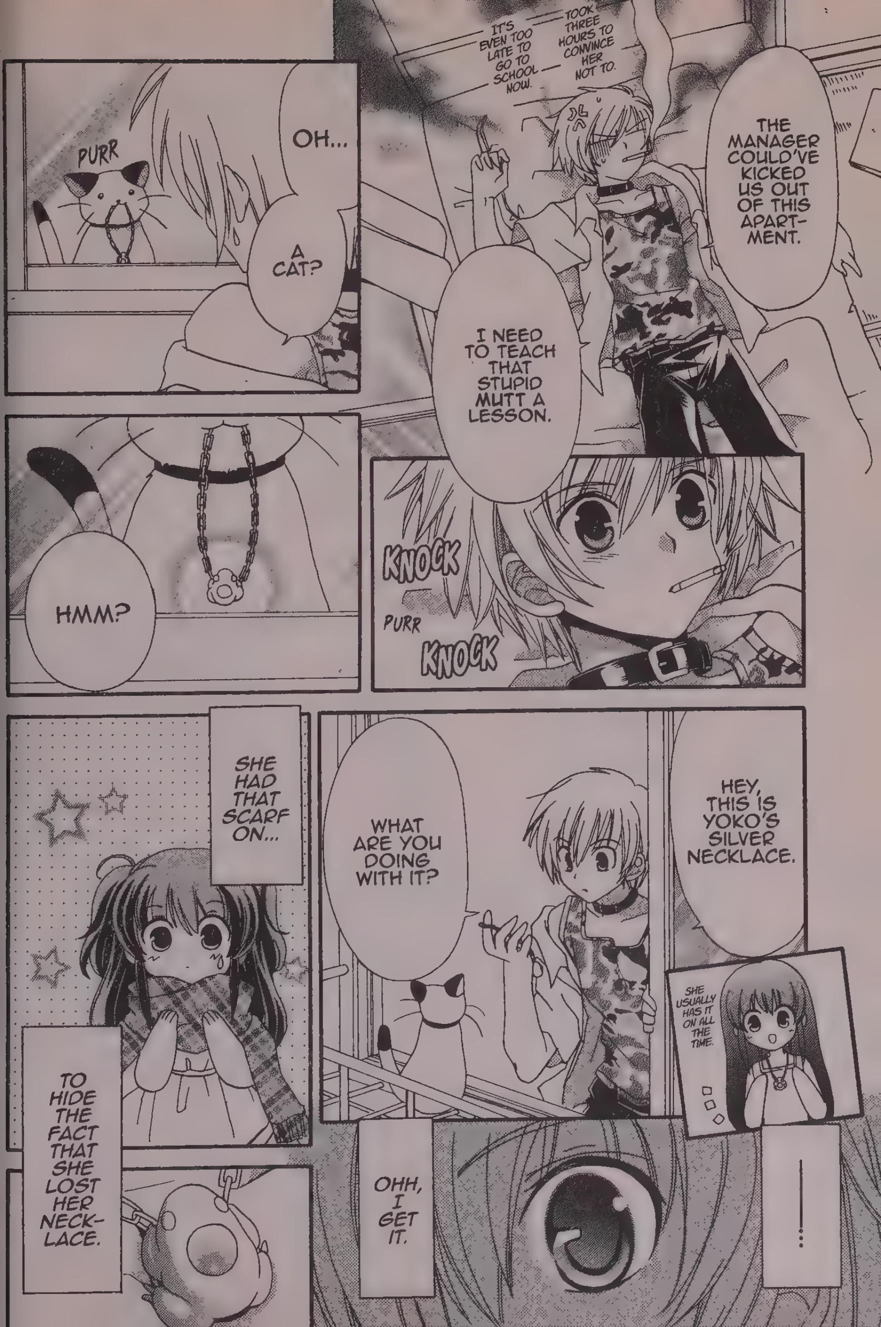

HEY.
THAT'S A LOT OF CLOTHES FOR THIS HOT WEATHER.
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, SCARVES ARE IN FASHION!
WHATEVER.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE WEAR A SCARF IN HOT WEATHER.
FIDGET FIDGET
BUT...
DOESN'T SOMETHING FEEL WEIRD?
EH?
ドキ…
STIFFEN
ドキ
BA-THUMP
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HMM... IT'S LIKE YOUR SPIRITUAL ENERGY FLOW...
SEEMS UNSTABLE OR SOMETHING.
BA-THUMP
ドキ

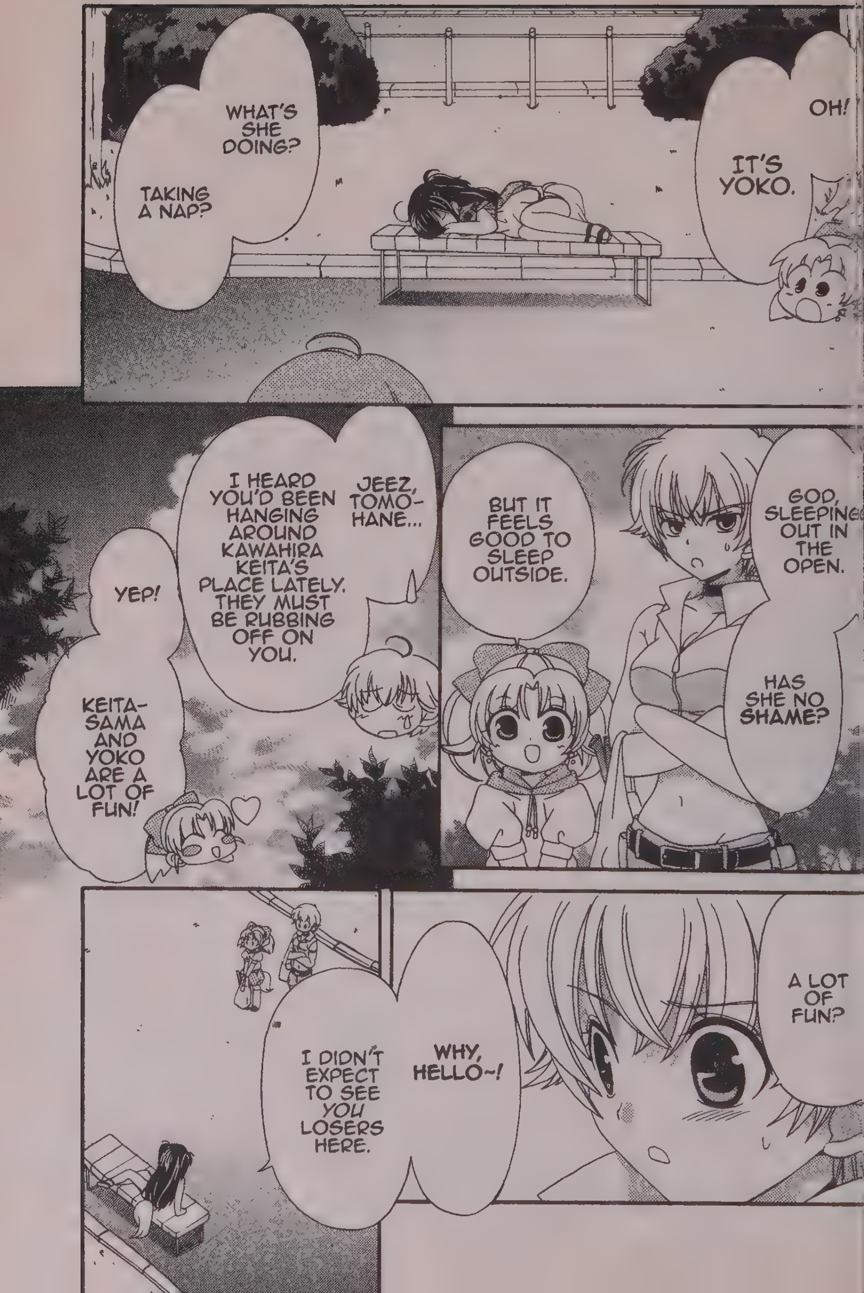

まき。
WRA AAP

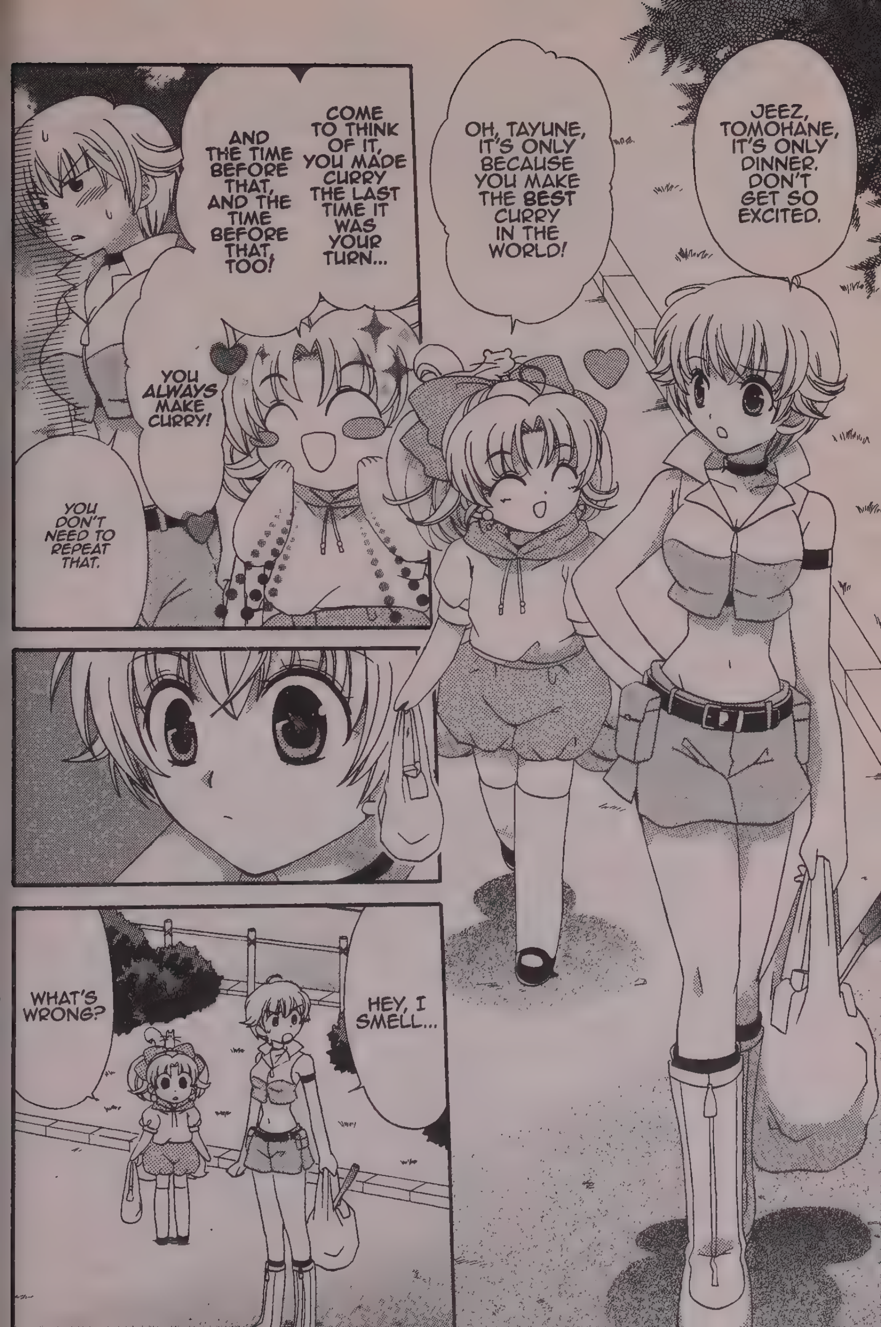

POOF
GOOD-NESS!
KAWAHIRA-SAN, ARE YOU TRYING TO SEDUCE ME?
YOUNG BOYS CAN BE SO HORNY!
TRYING TO SLEEP WITH A WIDOW?
OH MY GOD...! THE APARTMENT MANAGER?!
N-NO! I WOULDN'T DARE!
〜〜〜
I HAVE TO FIND IT QUICKLY.
DAMMIT!
YOKO!!
PLOP

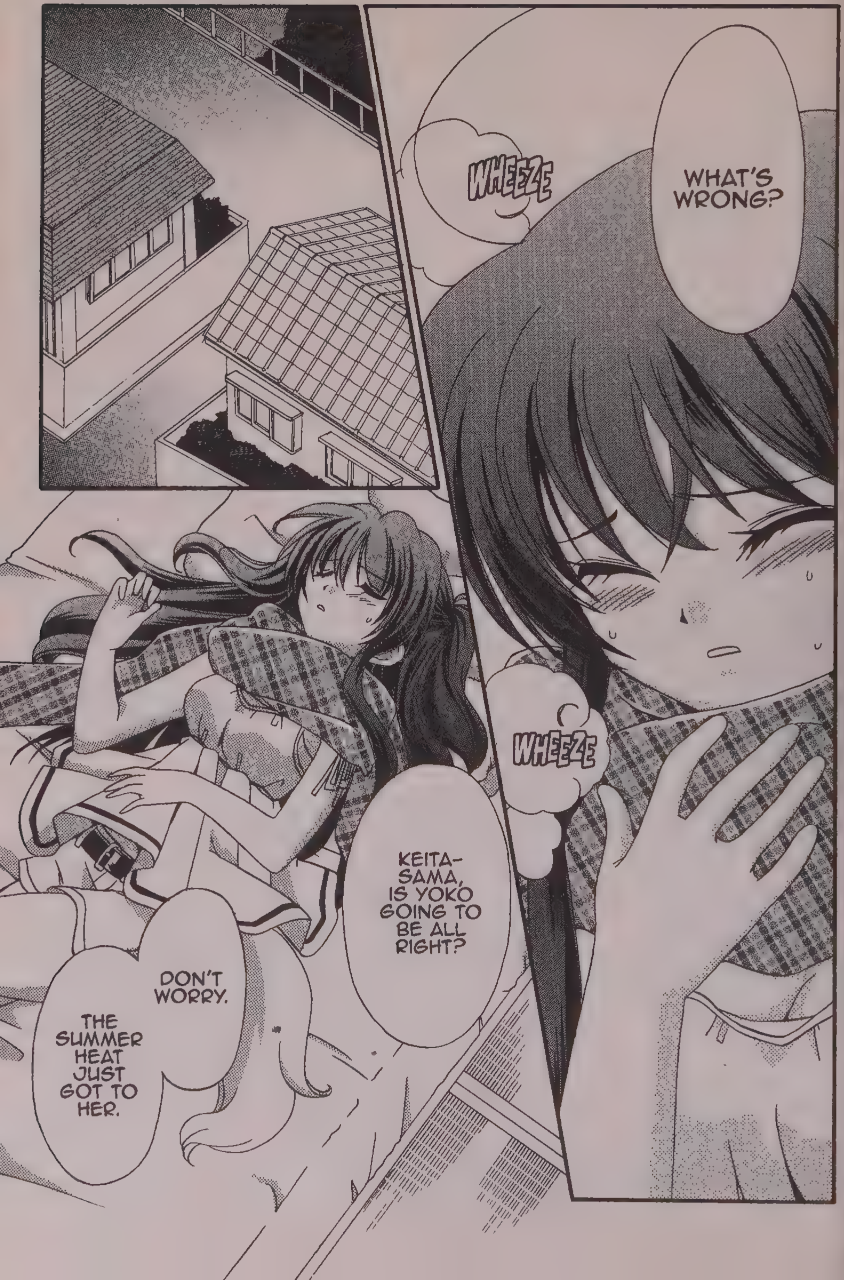

……
HEY.
YANK...
TAKE IT OFF.
NNN... NO!
C'MON, TAKE IT OFF.
NO NO!
YES YES!
TWIRL TWIRL
NOOOO!
SHUKUCHI!
POOF

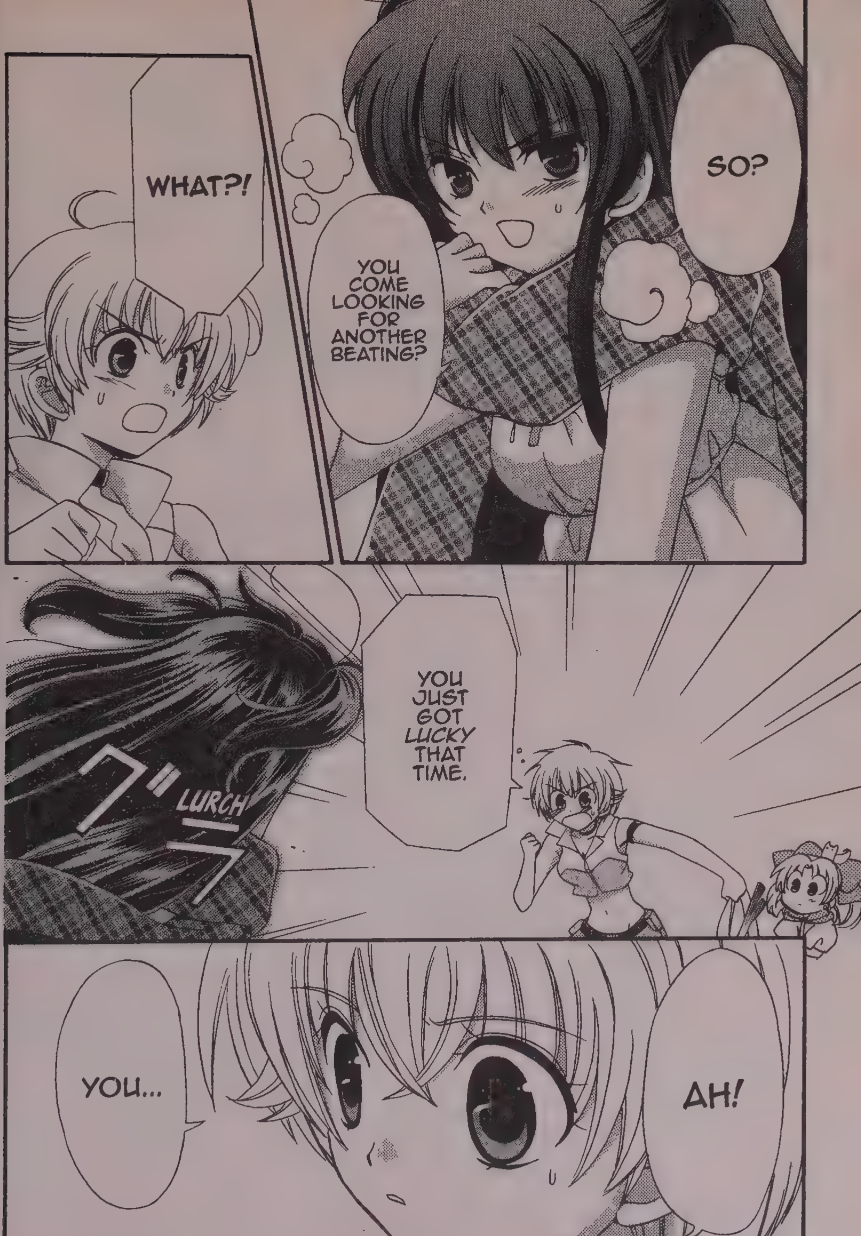

BU
SHE COULD'VE JUST TOLD ME SHE LOST IT.
WHAT A WEIRDO.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. GRANDMA USED TO TELL ME ABOUT...
HOW INUKAMI AND TRAINERS LOSE THEIR STRENGTH...
IF EITHER OF THEM DOESN'T HAVE THE SYMBOL OF THEIR CONTRACT ON THEM.
吉日公
I WONDER IF SHE'S HAVING A HARD TIME WITHOUT THIS NECKLACE.
OH NO..
I CAN'T FIND IT ANYWHERE.
PANT
YAY! CURRY, CURRY!
WE'RE HAVING CURRY ~! ♪

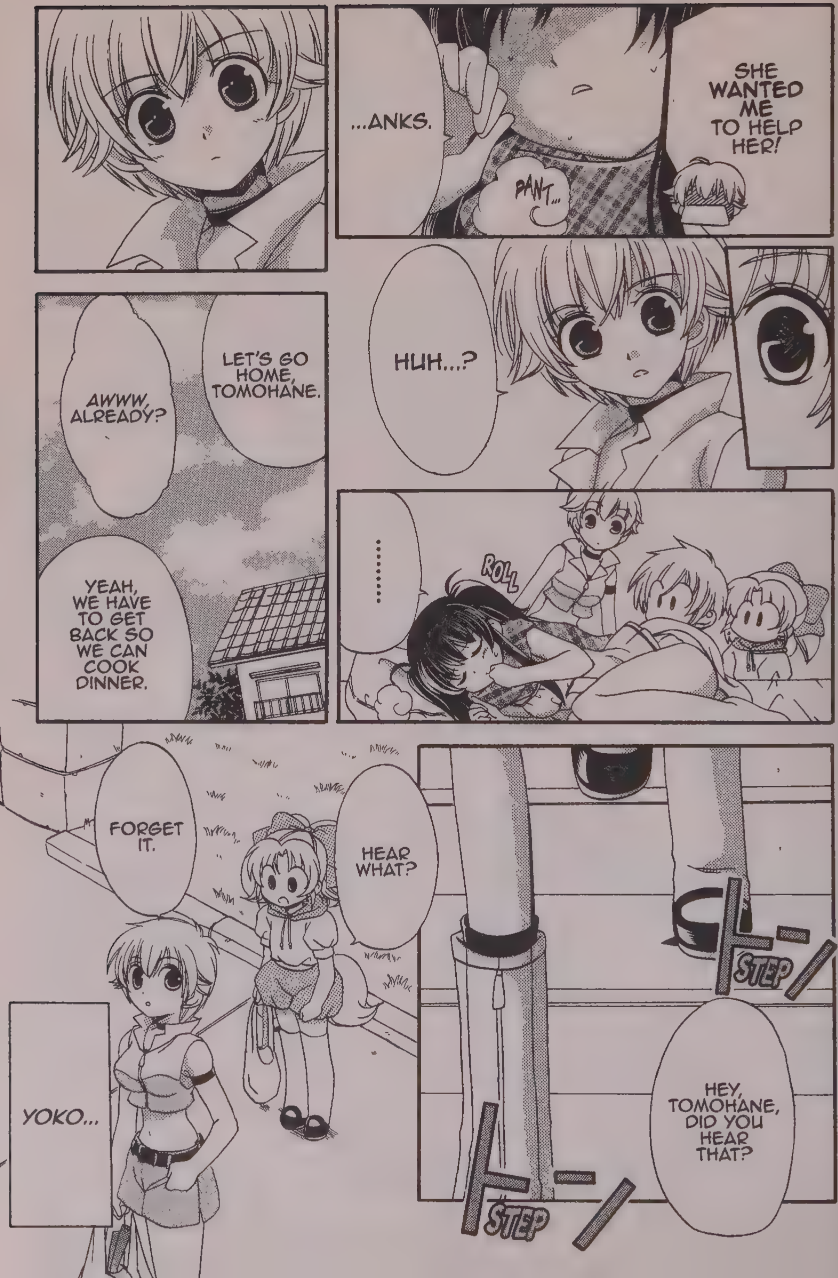

THE MANAGER COULD'VE KICKED US OUT OF THIS APARTMENT.
TOOK THREE HOURS TO CONVINCE HER NOT TO.
IT'S EVEN TOO LATE TO GO TO SCHOOL NOW.
I NEED TO TEACH THAT STUPID MUTT A LESSON.
KNOCK
PURR
KNOCK
OH...
A CAT?
PURR
HMM?
HEY, THIS IS YOKO'S SILVER NECKLACE.
SHE USUALLY HAS IT ON ALL THE TIME.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH IT?
SHE HAD THAT SCARF ON...
TO HIDE THE FACT THAT SHE LOST HER NECKLACE.
―...
OHH, I GET IT.

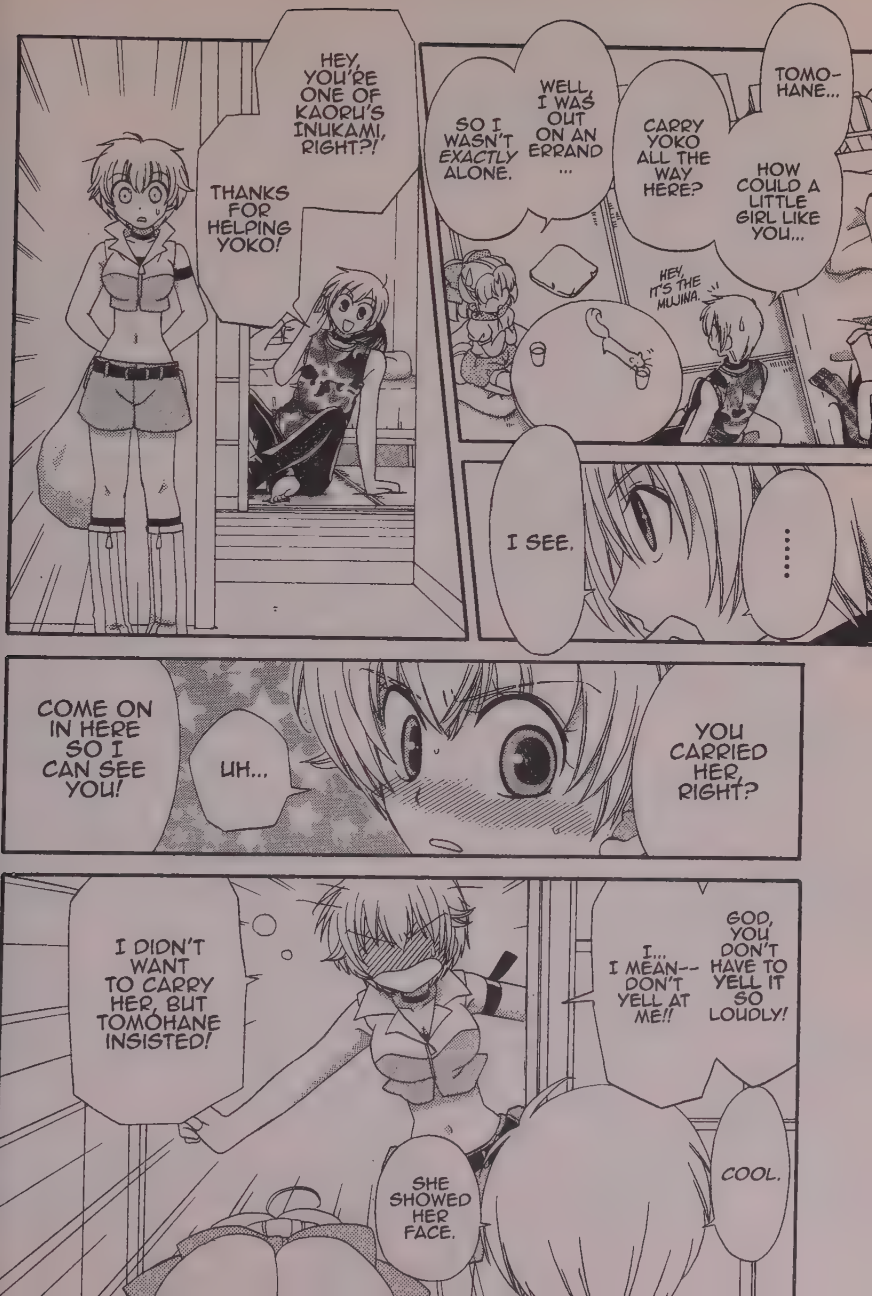

OH!
IT'S YOKO.
WHAT'S SHE DOING?
TAKING A NAP?
GOD, SLEEPING OUT IN THE OPEN.
HAS SHE NO SHAME?
BUT IT FEELS GOOD TO SLEEP OUTSIDE.
JEEZ, TOMOHANE...
I HEARD YOU'D BEEN HANGING AROUND KAWAHIRA KEITA'S PLACE LATELY. THEY MUST BE RUBBING OFF ON YOU.
YEP!
KEITA-SAMA AND YOKO ARE A LOT OF FUN!
A LOT OF FUN?
WHY, HELLO~!
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE *YOU* LOSERS HERE.

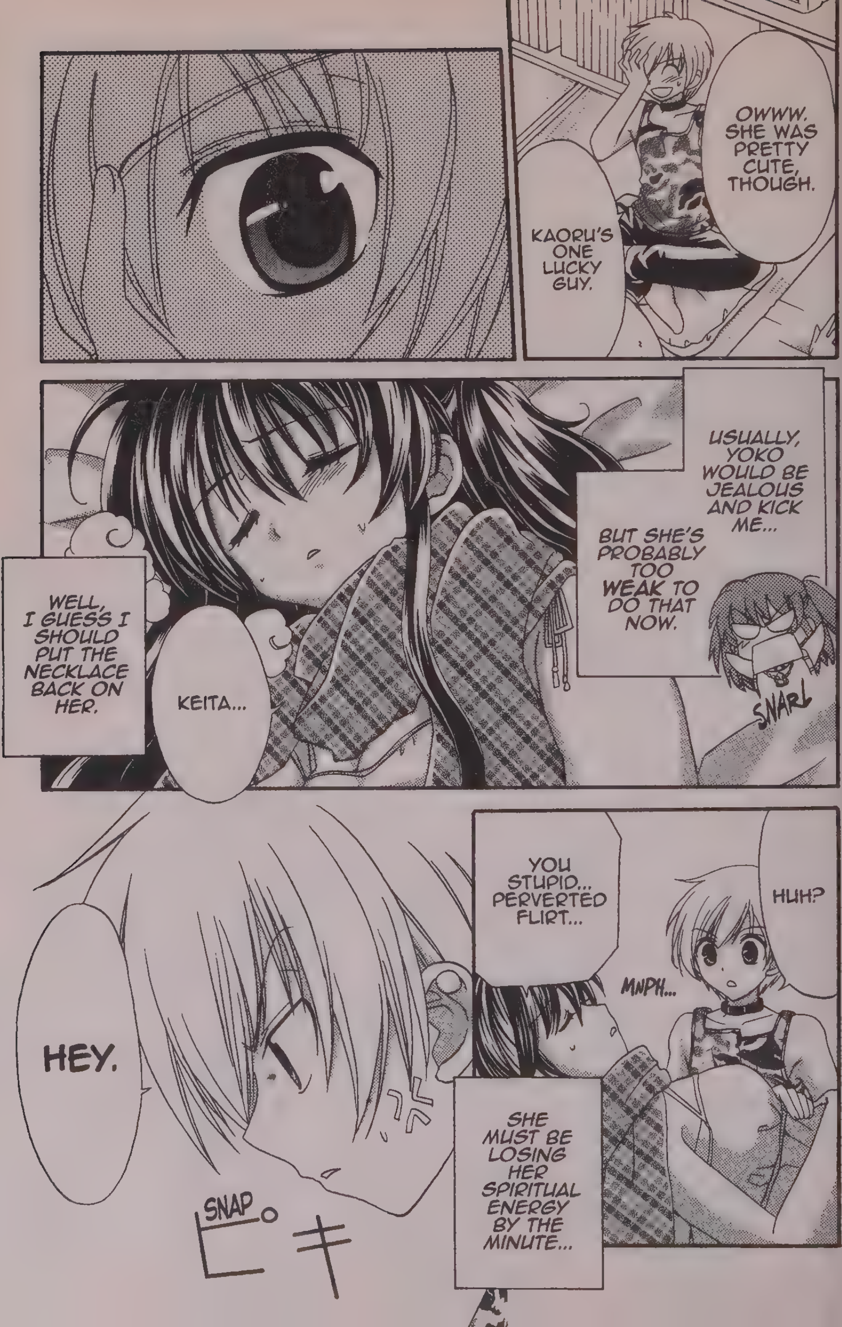

JEEZ, TOMOHANE, IT'S ONLY DINNER. DON'T GET SO EXCITED.
OH, TAYUNE, IT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOU MAKE THE BEST CURRY IN THE WORLD!
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU MADE CURRY THE LAST TIME IT WAS YOUR TURN...
AND THE TIME BEFORE THAT, AND THE TIME BEFORE THAT, TOO!
YOU ALWAYS MAKE CURRY!
YOU DON'T NEED TO REPEAT THAT.
HEY, I SMELL...
WHAT'S WRONG?

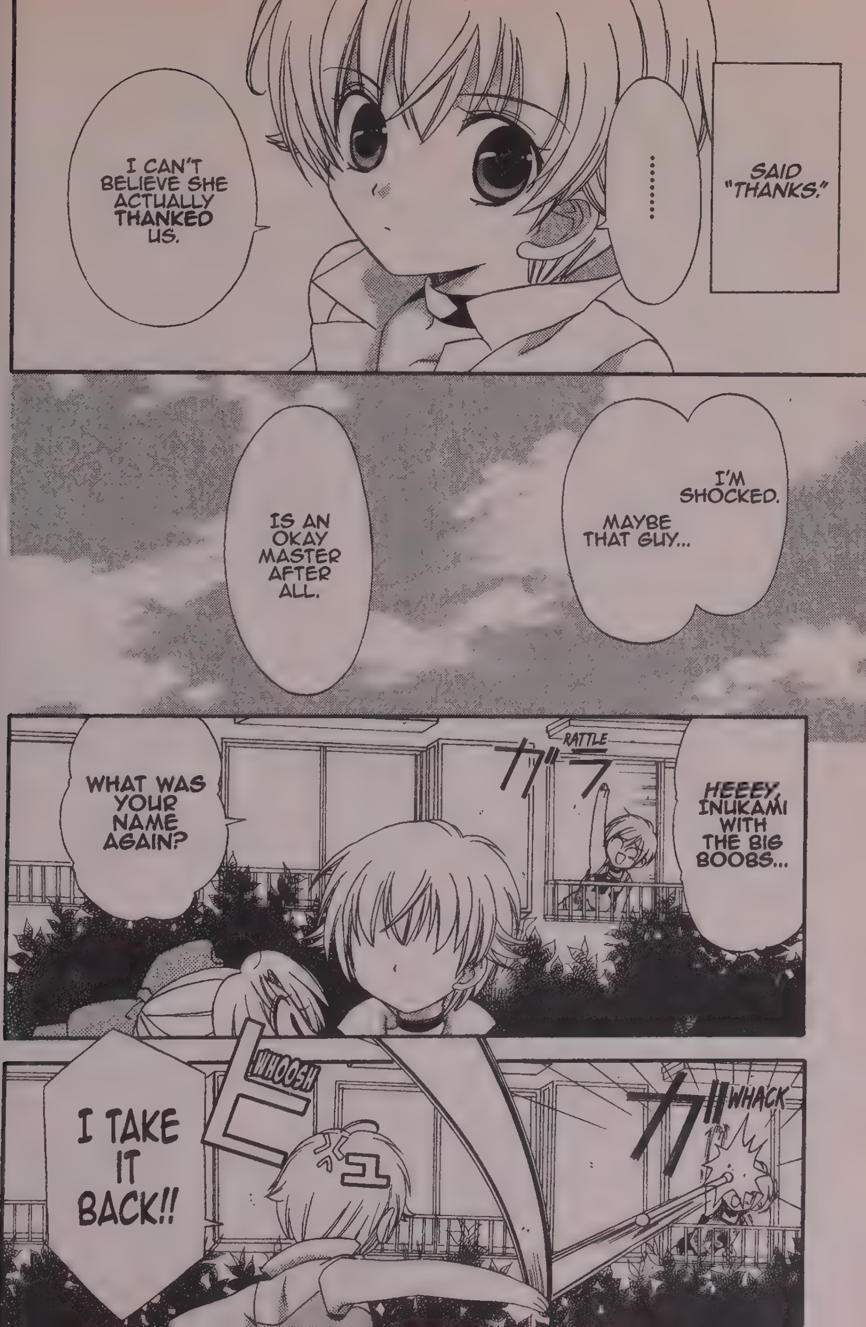

WHAT'S WRONG?
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
KEITA-SAMA, IS YOKO GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT?
DON'T WORRY.
THE SUMMER HEAT JUST GOT TO HER.

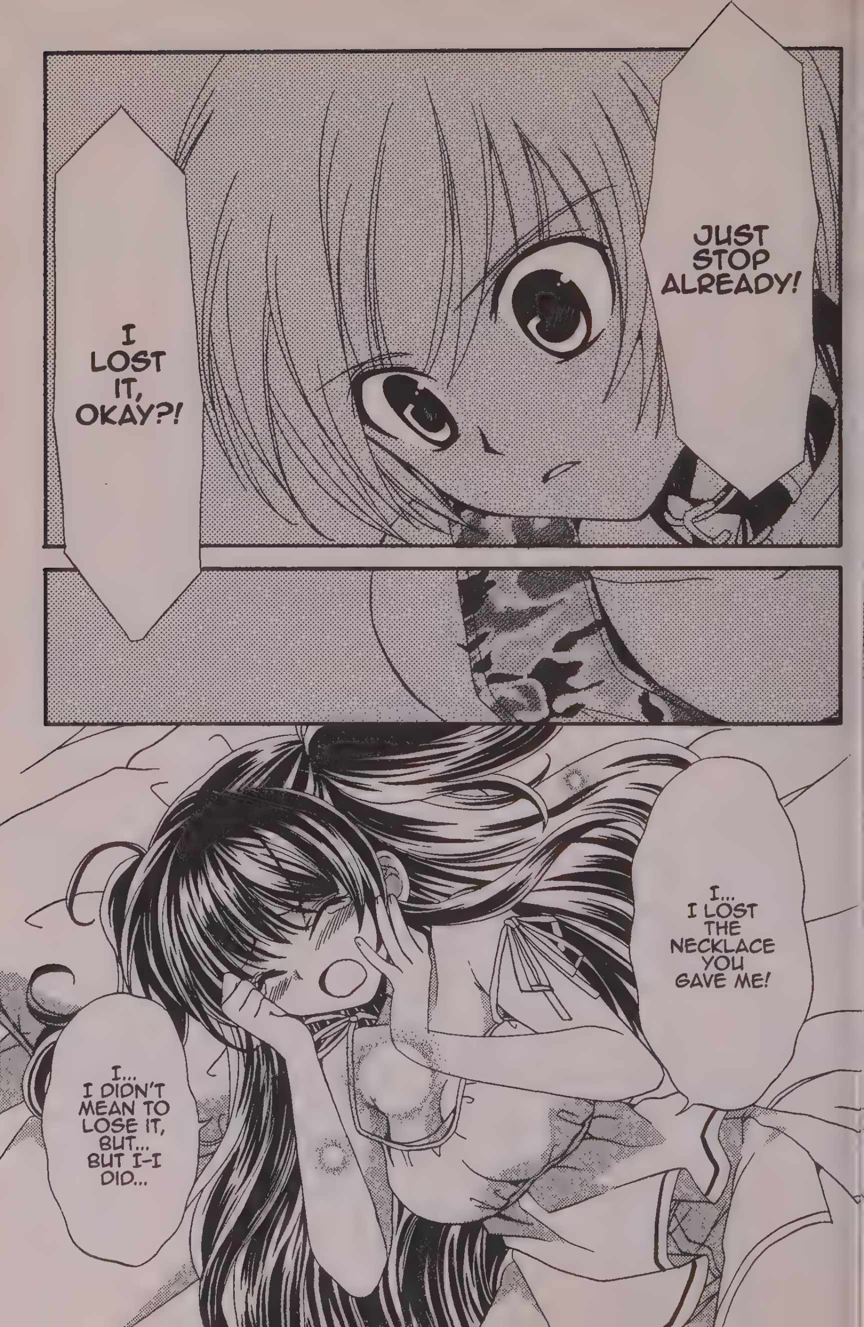

SO?
YOU COME LOOKING FOR ANOTHER BEATING?
WHAT?!
LURCH
YOU JUST GOT LUCKY THAT TIME.
AH!
YOU...

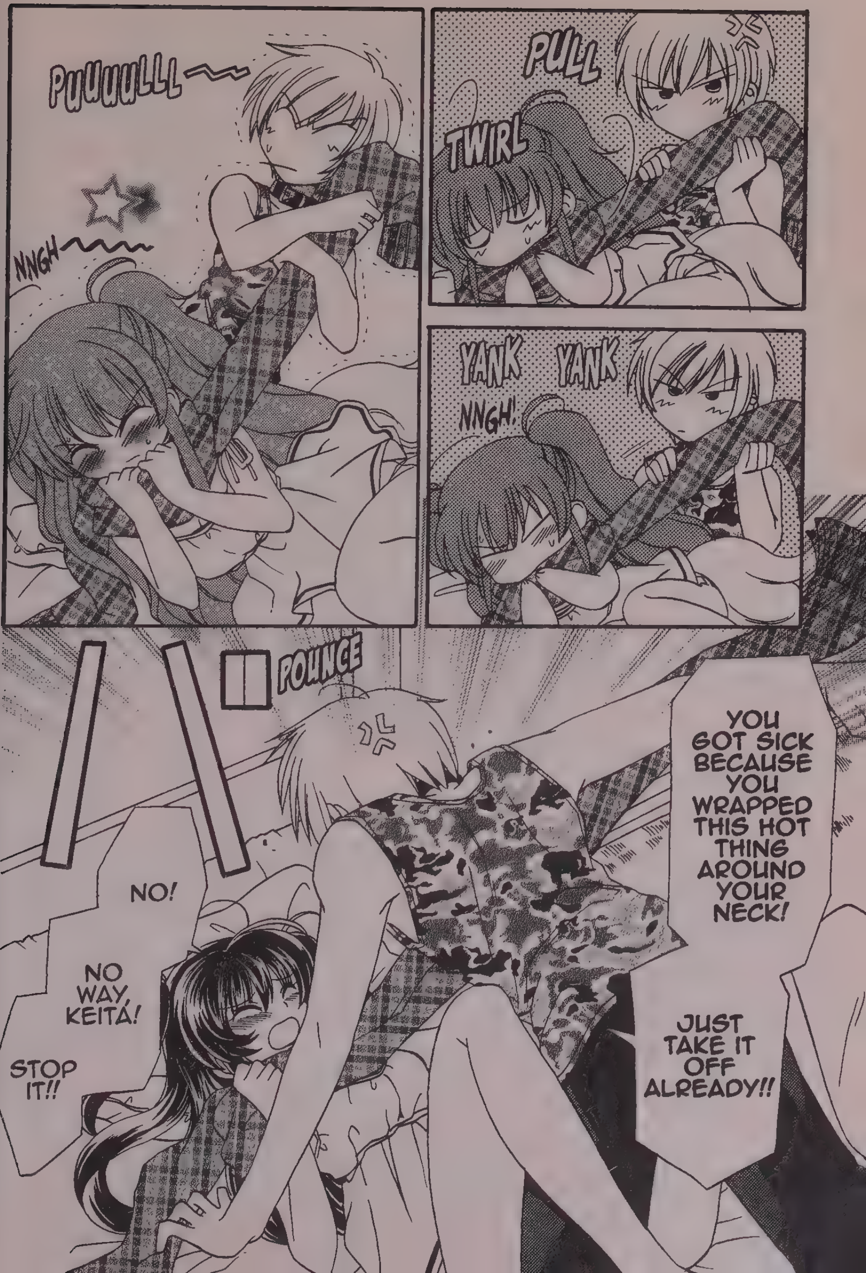

SHE WANTED ME TO HELP HER!
...ANKS.
PANT...
HUH...?
ROLL
....
LET'S GO HOME, TOMOHANE.
AWWW, ALREADY?
YEAH, WE HAVE TO GET BACK SO WE CAN COOK DINNER.
STEP
STEP
HEY, TOMOHANE, DID YOU HEAR THAT?
HEAR WHAT?
FORGET IT.
YOKO...

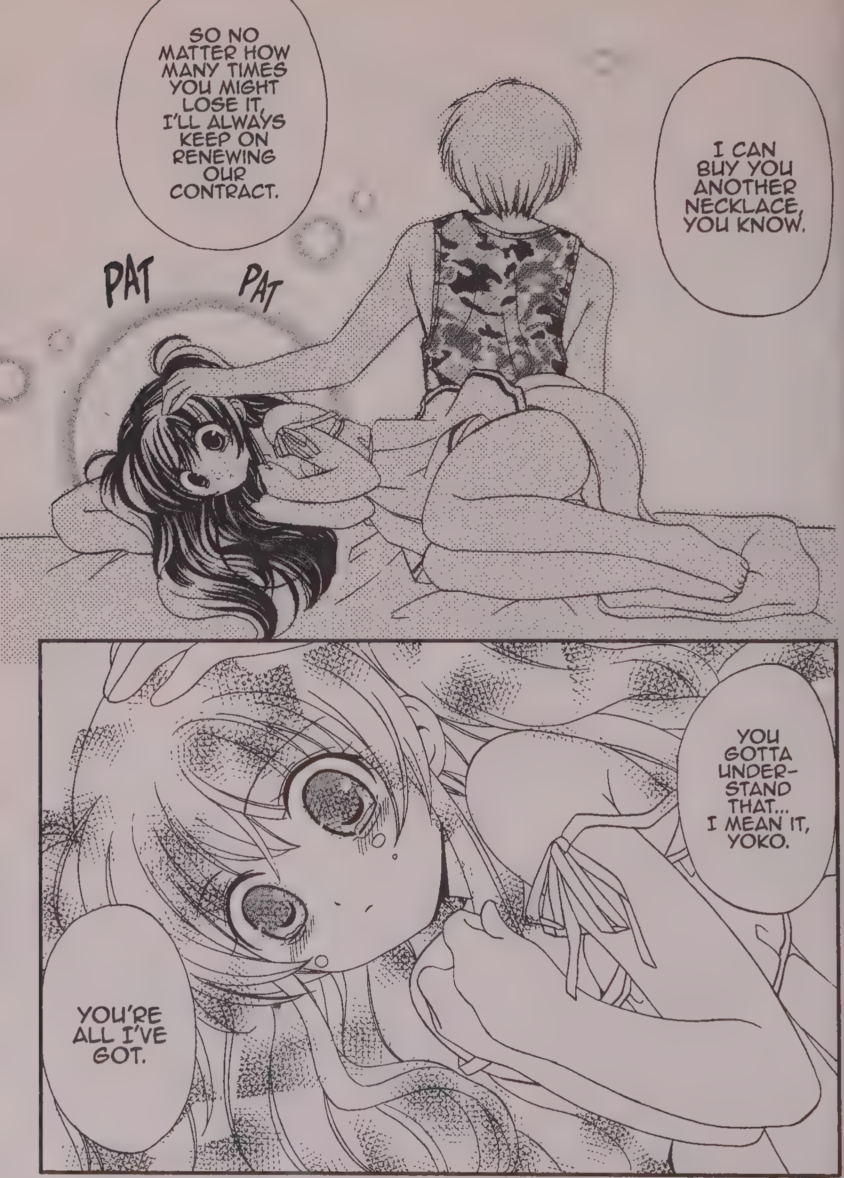

TOMO-HANE...
HOW COULD A LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU...
CARRY YOKO ALL THE WAY HERE?
HEY, IT'S THE MUJINA.
WELL, I WAS OUT ON AN ERRAND...
SO I WASN'T EXACTLY ALONE.
......
I SEE.
HEY, YOU'RE ONE OF KAORU'S INUKAMI, RIGHT?!
THANKS FOR HELPING YOKO!
YOU CARRIED HER, RIGHT?
UH...
COME ON IN HERE SO I CAN SEE YOU!
GOD, YOU DON'T HAVE TO YELL IT SO LOUDLY!
I... I MEAN-- DON'T YELL AT ME!!
I DIDN'T WANT TO CARRY HER, BUT TOMOHANE INSISTED!
COOL.
SHE SHOWED HER FACE.

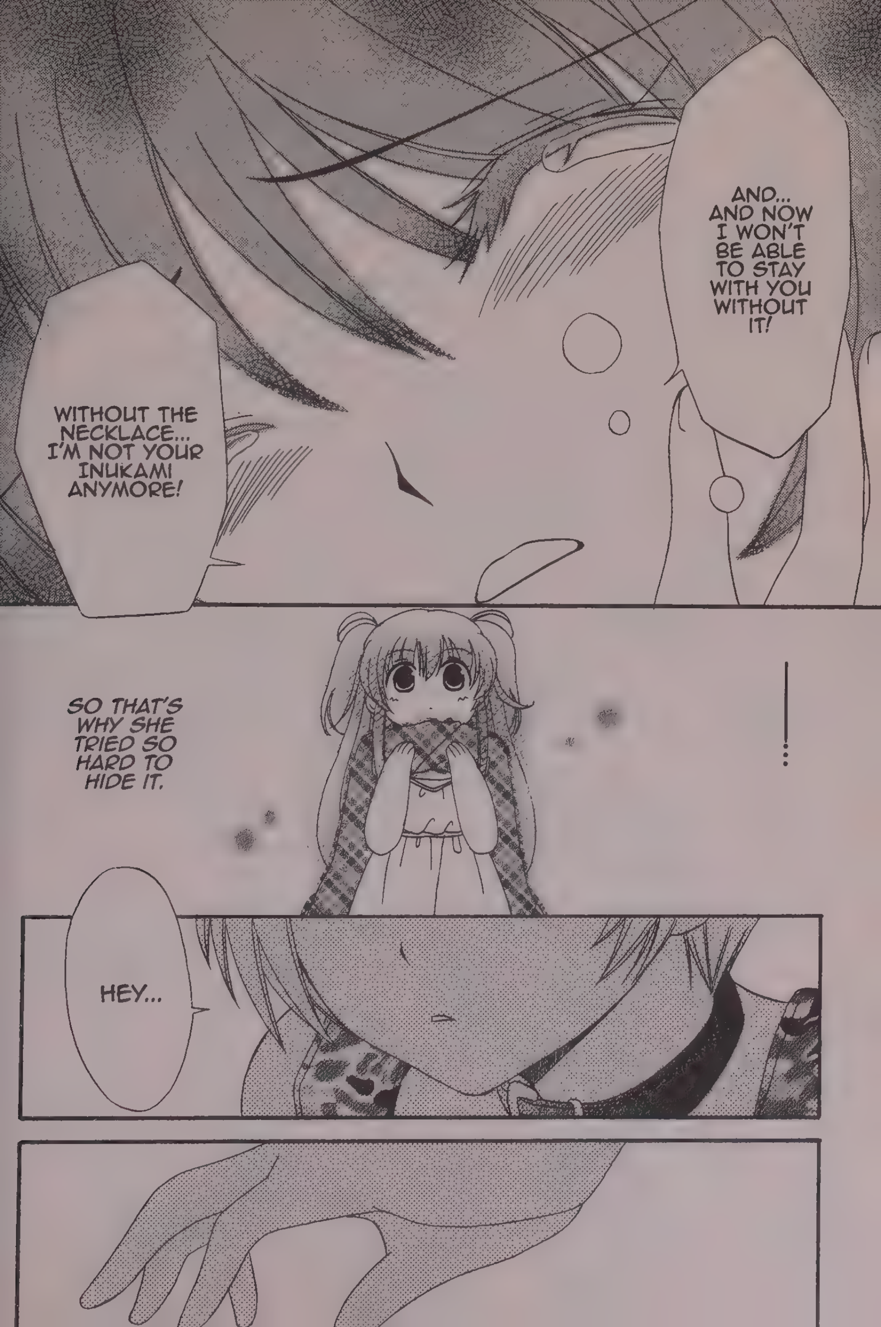

OWWW. SHE WAS PRETTY CUTE, THOUGH.
KAORU'S ONE LUCKY GUY.
USUALLY, YOKO WOULD BE JEALOUS AND KICK ME...
BUT SHE'S PROBABLY TOO WEAK TO DO THAT NOW.
SNARL
KEITA...
WELL, I GUESS I SHOULD PUT THE NECKLACE BACK ON HER.
HUH?
YOU STUPID... PERVERTED FLIRT...
MNPH...
SHE MUST BE LOSING HER SPIRITUAL ENERGY BY THE MINUTE...
HEY.
SNAP
ピキ

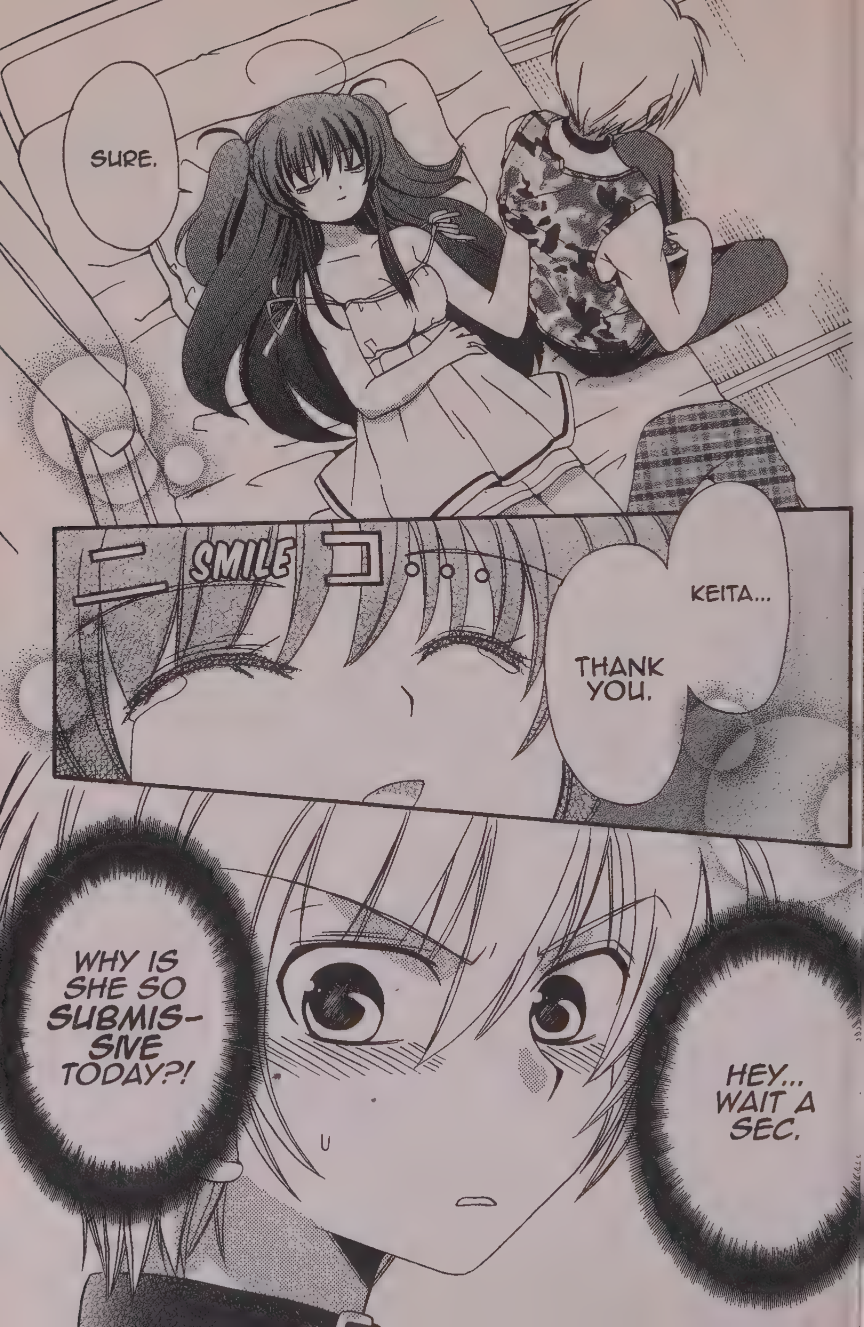

SAID "THANKS."
……
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE ACTUALLY THANKED US.
I'M SHOCKED.
MAYBE THAT GUY...
IS AN OKAY MASTER AFTER ALL.
RATTLE
HEEEY, INUKAMI WITH THE BIG BOOBS...
WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN?
WHACK
WHOOSH
I TAKE IT BACK!!

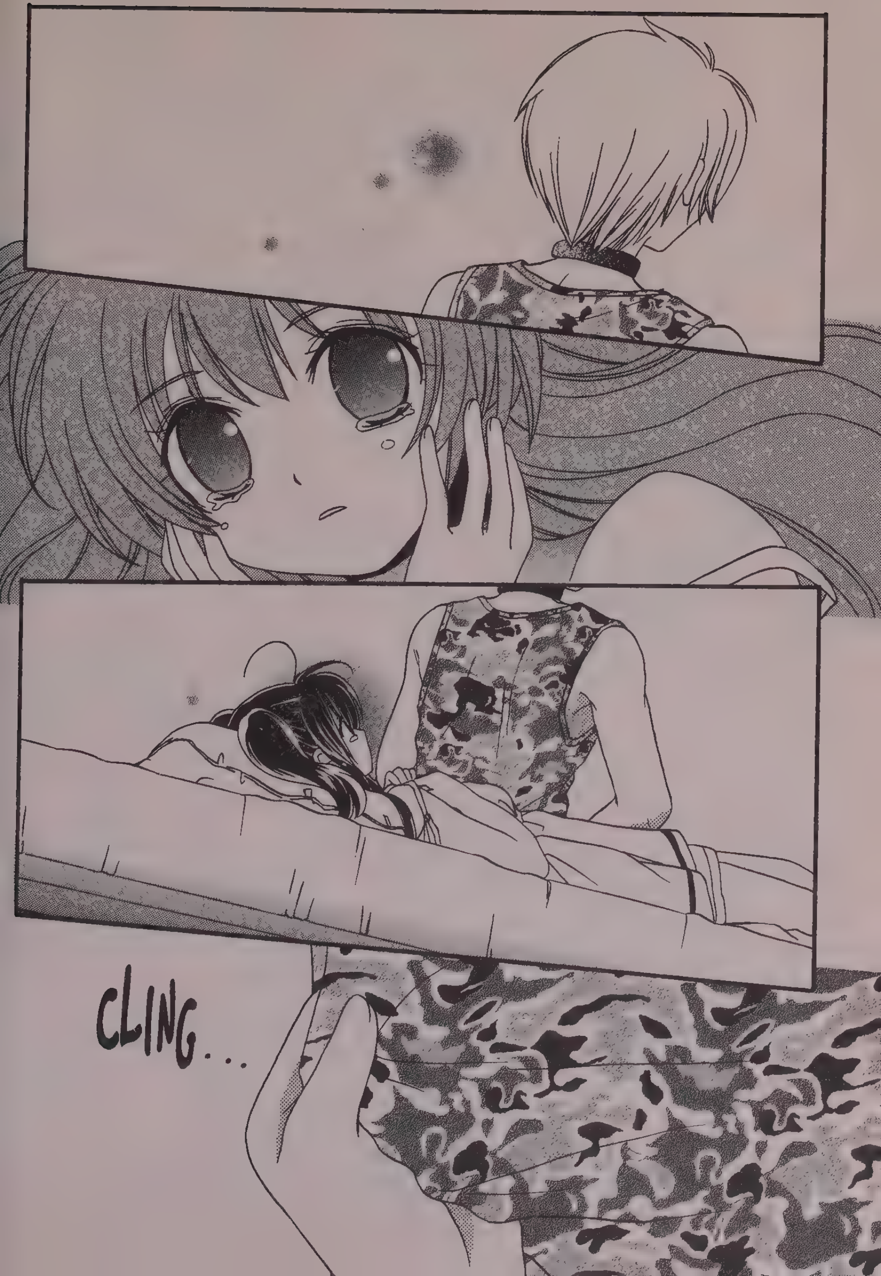

JUST STOP ALREADY!
I LOST IT, OKAY?!
I... I LOST THE NECKLACE YOU GAVE ME!
I... I DIDN'T MEAN TO LOSE IT, BUT... BUT I-I DID...

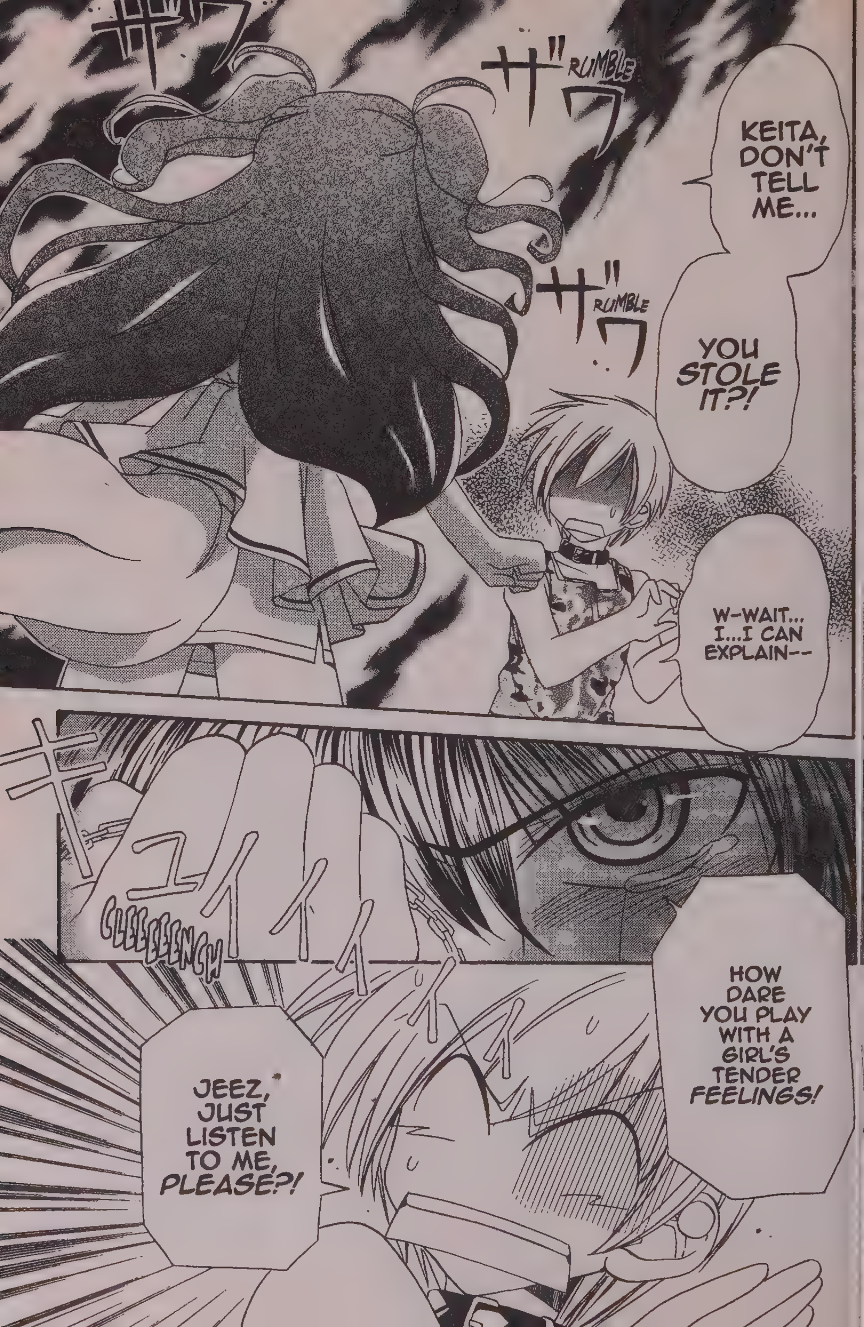

PULL
TWIRL
YANK YANK
NNGH!
PUUUULLL
NNGH
POUNCE
YOU GOT SICK BECAUSE YOU WRAPPED THIS HOT THING AROUND YOUR NECK!
JUST TAKE IT OFF ALREADY!!
NO!
NO WAY, KEITA!
STOP IT!!

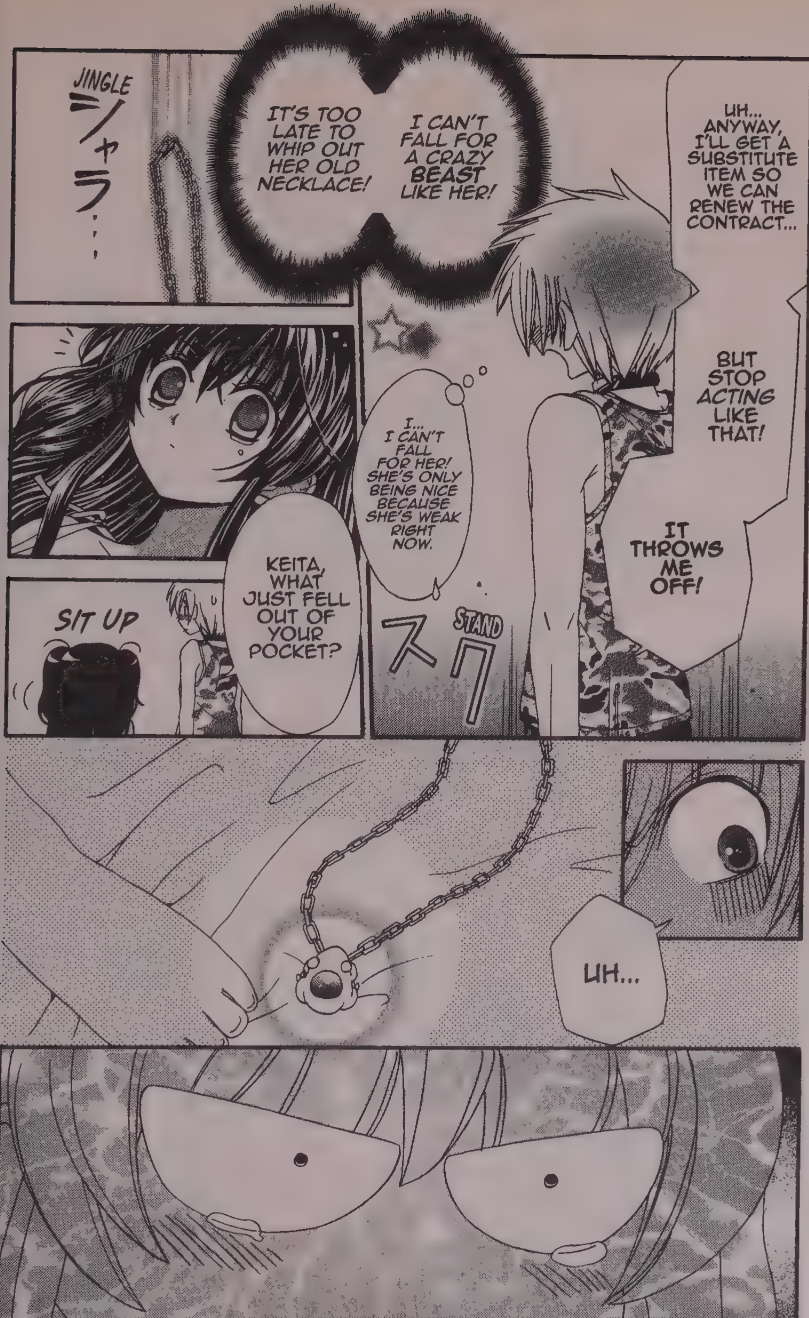

I CAN BUY YOU ANOTHER NECKLACE, YOU KNOW.
SO NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU MIGHT LOSE IT, I'LL ALWAYS KEEP ON RENEWING OUR CONTRACT.
PAT PAT
YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND THAT... I MEAN IT, YOKO.
YOU'RE ALL I'VE GOT.

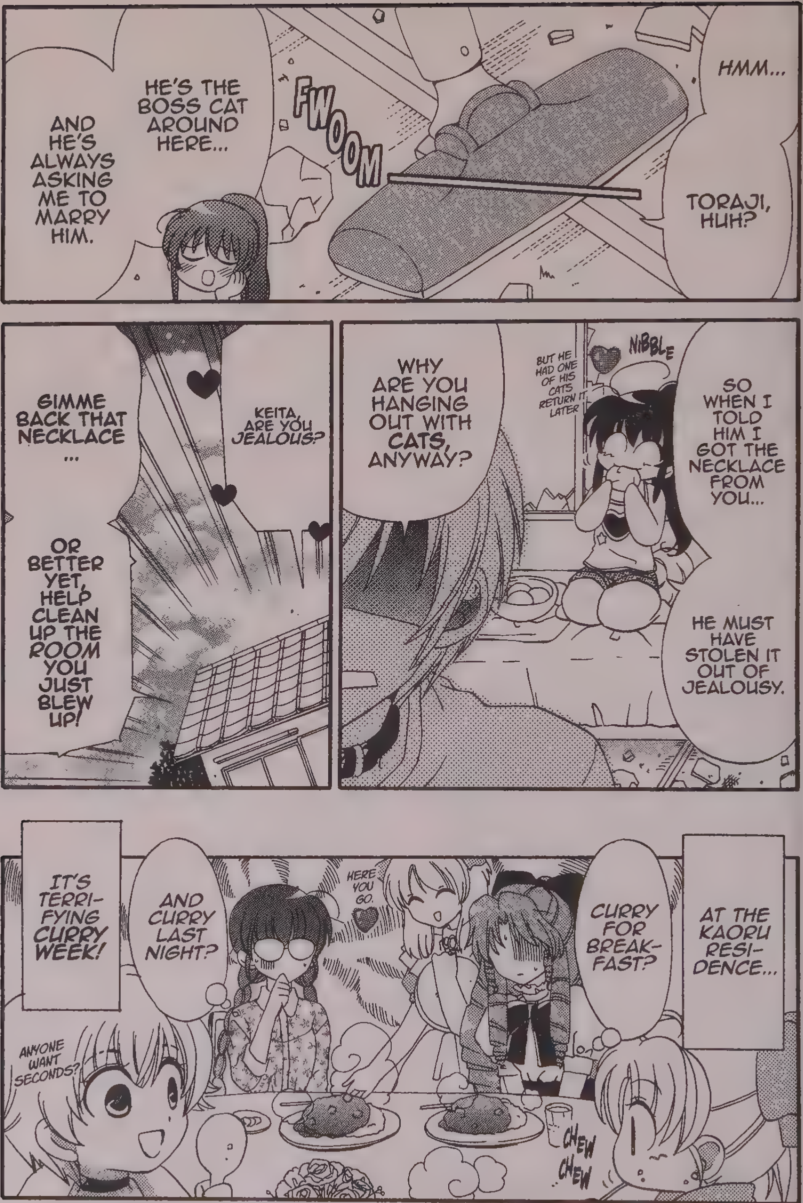

WITHOUT THE NECKLACE... I'M NOT YOUR INUKAMI ANYMORE!
AND... AND NOW I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY WITH YOU WITHOUT IT!
—!...
SO THAT'S WHY SHE TRIED SO HARD TO HIDE IT.
HEY...


SURE.
SMILE
KEITA...
THANK YOU.
HEY... WAIT A SEC.
WHY IS SHE SO SUBMISSIVE TODAY?!

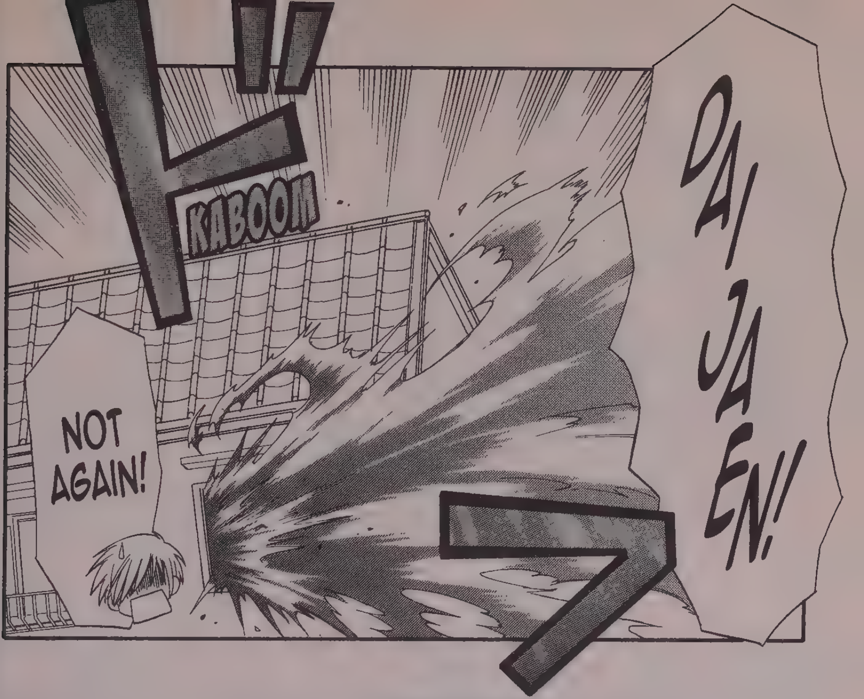

CLING....

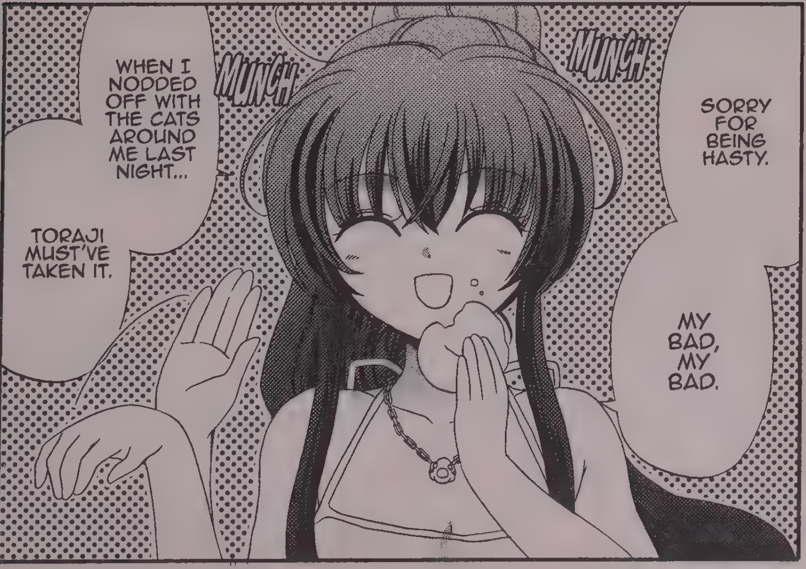

ザワ
ザワ RUMBLE
KEITA, DON'T TELL ME...
ザワ RUMBLE
YOU STOLE IT?!
W-WAIT... I...I CAN EXPLAIN--
キュイイイイ CLEEEEENCH
HOW DARE YOU PLAY WITH A GIRL'S TENDER FEELINGS!
JEEZ, JUST LISTEN TO ME, PLEASE?!

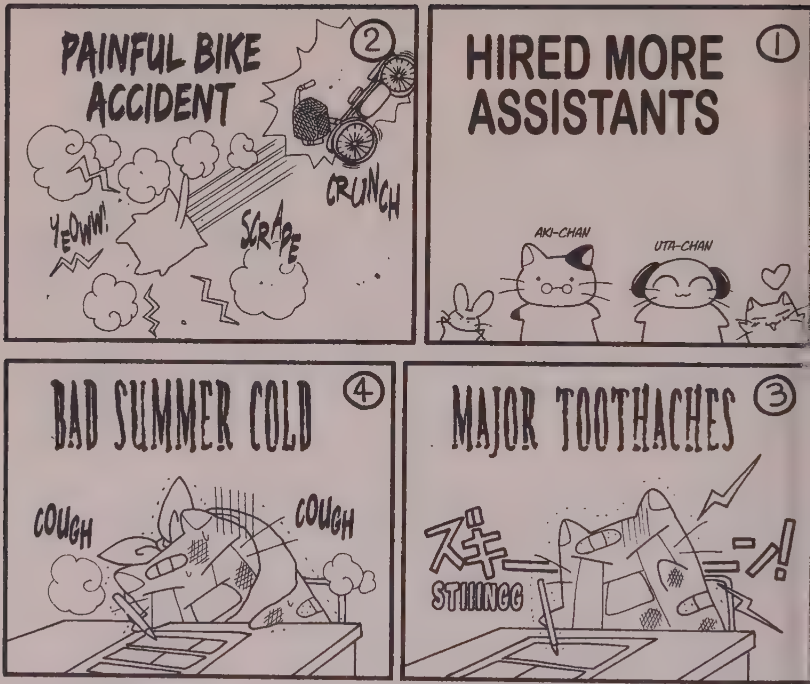

UH... ANYWAY, I'LL GET A SUBSTITUTE ITEM SO WE CAN RENEW THE CONTRACT...
BUT STOP ACTING LIKE THAT!
IT THROWS ME OFF!
I CAN'T FALL FOR A CRAZY BEAST LIKE HER!
IT'S TOO LATE TO WHIP OUT HER OLD NECKLACE!
JINGLE シャラ...
I... I CAN'T FALL FOR HER! SHE'S ONLY BEING NICE BECAUSE SHE'S WEAK RIGHT NOW.
STAND スク
SIT UP
KEITA, WHAT JUST FELL OUT OF YOUR POCKET?
UH...

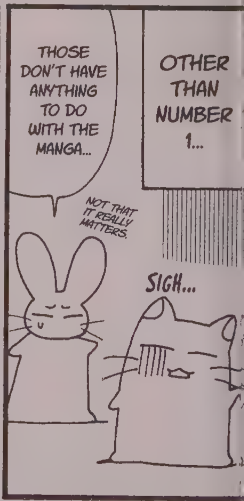

HMM...
TORAJI, HUH?
HE'S THE BOSS CAT AROUND HERE...
AND HE'S ALWAYS ASKING ME TO MARRY HIM.
FWOOM
SO WHEN I TOLD HIM I GOT THE NECKLACE FROM YOU...
NIBBLE
BUT HE HAD ONE OF HIS CATS RETURN IT LATER
HE MUST HAVE STOLEN IT OUT OF JEALOUSY.
WHY ARE YOU HANGING OUT WITH CATS, ANYWAY?
KEITA, ARE YOU JEALOUS?
GIMME BACK THAT NECKLACE ...
OR BETTER YET, HELP CLEAN UP THE ROOM YOU JUST BLEW UP!
AT THE KAORU RESIDENCE...
CURRY FOR BREAKFAST?
HERE YOU GO.
AND CURRY LAST NIGHT?
IT'S TERRIFYING CURRY WEEK!
ANYONE WANT SECONDS?
CHEW CHEW

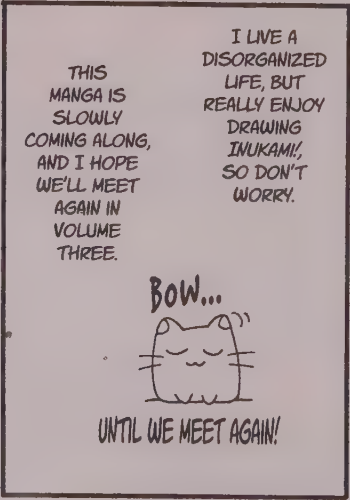
To Be Continued


DAIJAEN!!
KABOOM
NOT AGAIN!


SORRY FOR BEING HASTY.
MUNCH
MY BAD, MY BAD.
MUNCH
WHEN I NODDED OFF WITH THE CATS AROUND ME LAST NIGHT...
TORAJI MUST'VE TAKEN IT.


HIRED MORE ASSISTANTS ①
AKI-CHAN
UTA-CHAN
PAINFUL BIKE ACCIDENT ②
CRUNCH
SCRAPE
YEOWW!
MAJOR TOOTHACHES ③
ズキーーッ!
STIIINGG
BAD SUMMER COLD ④
COUGH
COUGH

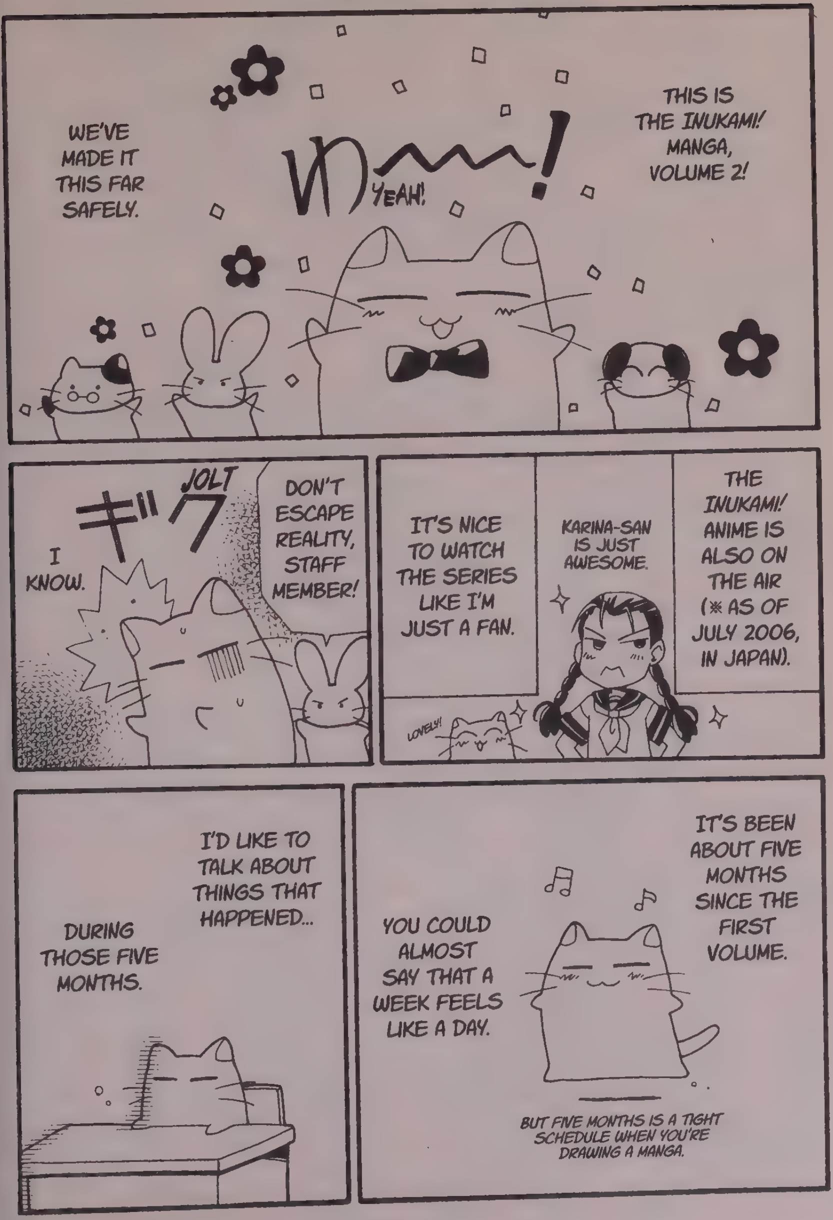

OTHER THAN NUMBER 1...
THOSE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE MANGA...
NOT THAT IT REALLY MATTERS.
SIGH...

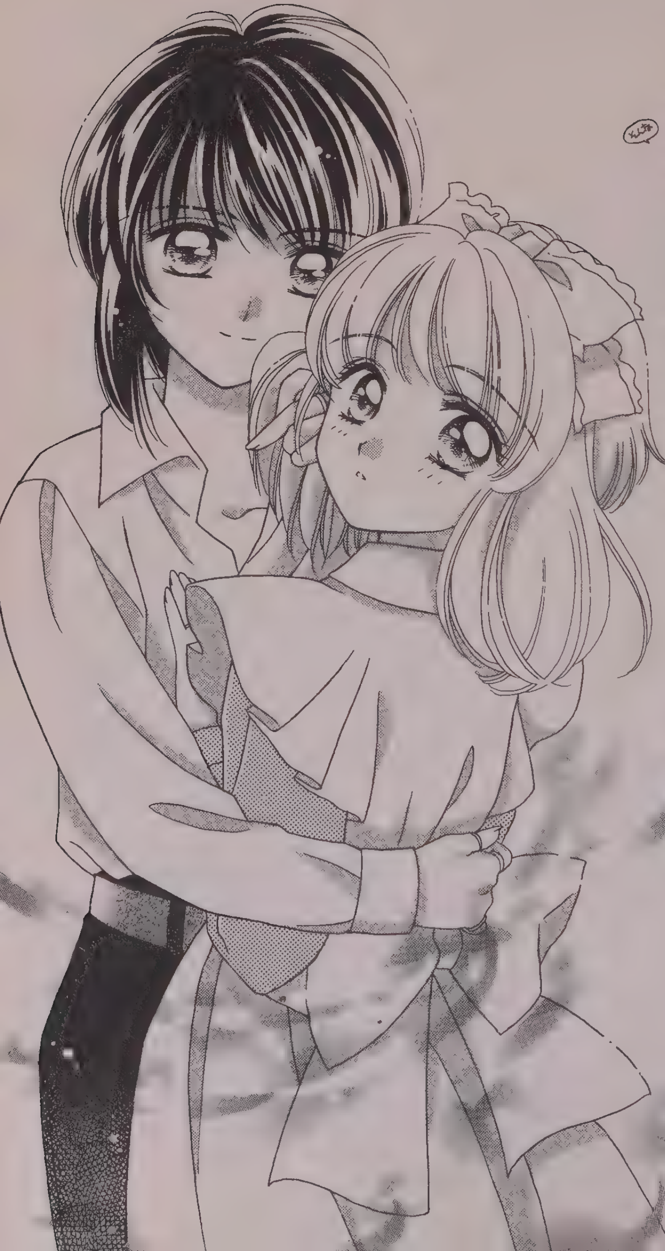

I LIVE A DISORGANIZED LIFE, BUT REALLY ENJOY DRAWING INUKAMI!, SO DON'T WORRY.
THIS MANGA IS SLOWLY COMING ALONG, AND I HOPE WE'LL MEET AGAIN IN VOLUME THREE.
BOW...
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!

Special Thanks

- ARISAWA MAMIZU-SAN
- WAKATSUKI KANNA-SAN
- KISHO FUJIYOSHI-SAN
- ICHIKAWA UTA-SAN
- NANJO AKIMASA-SAN
- ALL THE EDITORS
- MY FAMILY
- AND EVERYONE ELSE I COULDN'T MENTION SPECIFICALLY ☆

Afterword!


THIS IS THE INUKAMI! MANGA, VOLUME 2!
わ〜!
YEAH!
WE'VE MADE IT THIS FAR SAFELY.
THE INUKAMI! ANIME IS ALSO ON THE AIR (※ AS OF JULY 2006, IN JAPAN).
KARINA-SAN IS JUST AWESOME.
IT'S NICE TO WATCH THE SERIES LIKE I'M JUST A FAN.
LOVELY!
DON'T ESCAPE REALITY, STAFF MEMBER!
ギク
JOLT
I KNOW.
IT'S BEEN ABOUT FIVE MONTHS SINCE THE FIRST VOLUME.
YOU COULD ALMOST SAY THAT A WEEK FEELS LIKE A DAY.
BUT FIVE MONTHS IS A TIGHT SCHEDULE WHEN YOU'RE DRAWING A MANGA.
I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT THINGS THAT HAPPENED...
DURING THOSE FIVE MONTHS.



CONGRATULATIONS ON THE RELEASE OF VOLUME TWO. CLAP CLAP! MATSUZAWA-SAN, THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO MY WHINY COMMENTS SO PATIENTLY OVER THE PHONE... SORRY FOR TROUBLING YOU. I HOPE I CAN MAKE IT UP TO YOU WITH THIS PICTURE OF KAORU AND NADESHIKO THAT YOU REQUESTED. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AGAIN!

FROM KANNA WAKATSU

P.S. MATSUZAWA-SAN DRAWS NADESHIKO SO ADORABLY.

From the Creator and Character Designers

YOKO: KEITA, I WANT TO KNOW SOMETHING. WHY DO YOU LIKE FROGS?

KEITA: HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOKO: KEITA, YOU USE FROG ERASERS, RIGHT? AND YOU GAVE ME A NECKLACE WITH A FROG TRINKET. SO I JUST THOUGHT, YOU KNOW, YOU MUST LIKE FROGS.

KEITA: OH, THAT... (WITH A FARAWAY LOOK) IT'S KIND OF A LONG STORY. IT GOES BACK TO WHEN I WAS STILL IN TRAINING.

YOKO: YAWN~♪

KEITA: HEY, WAKE UP!

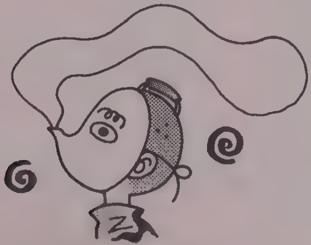
YOKO: JUST KIDDING.♪ SO, TELL ME ABOUT IT. GIMME ALL THE DETAILS.

KEITA: LIKE I SAID, I WAS IN TRAINING THEN. SUDDENLY, THIS SILLY FROG...

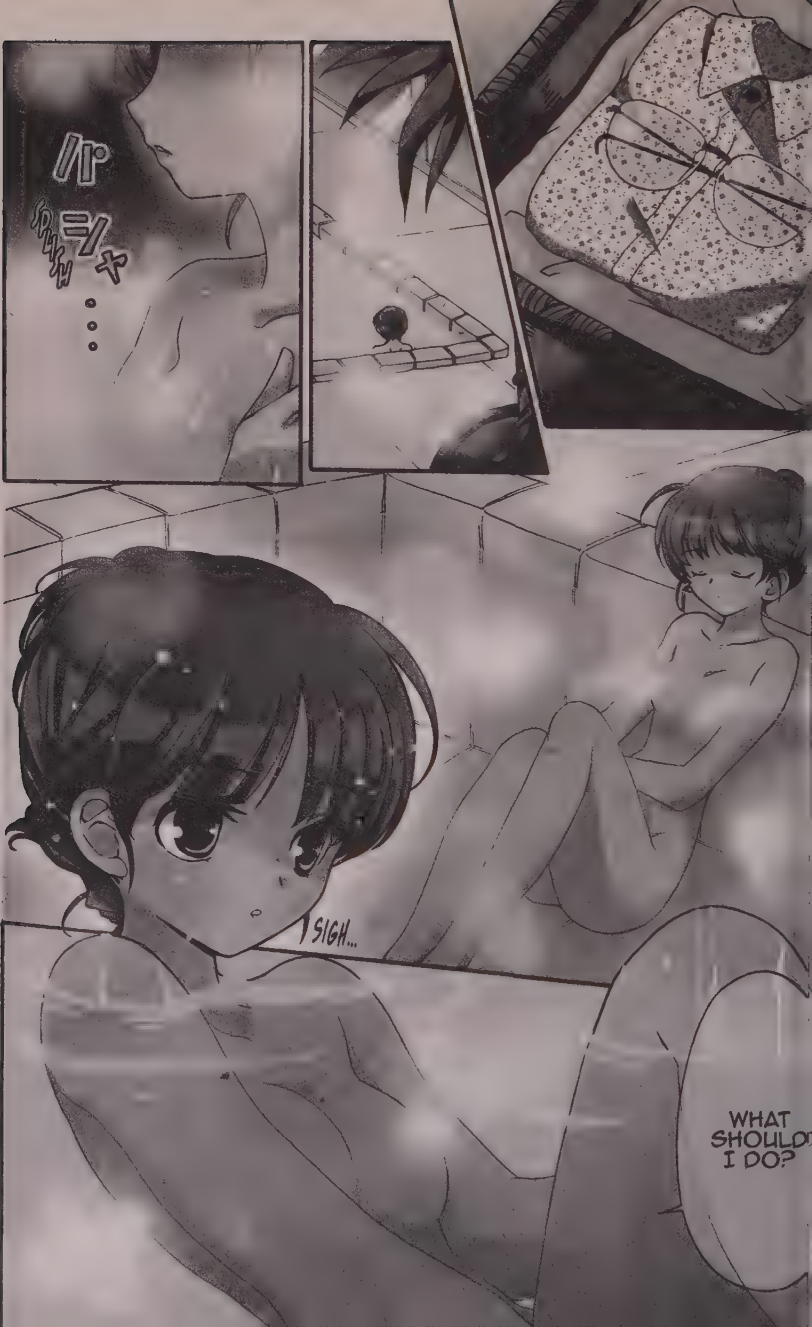
YOKO: SNOOZE~

KEITA: HEEEEY!!

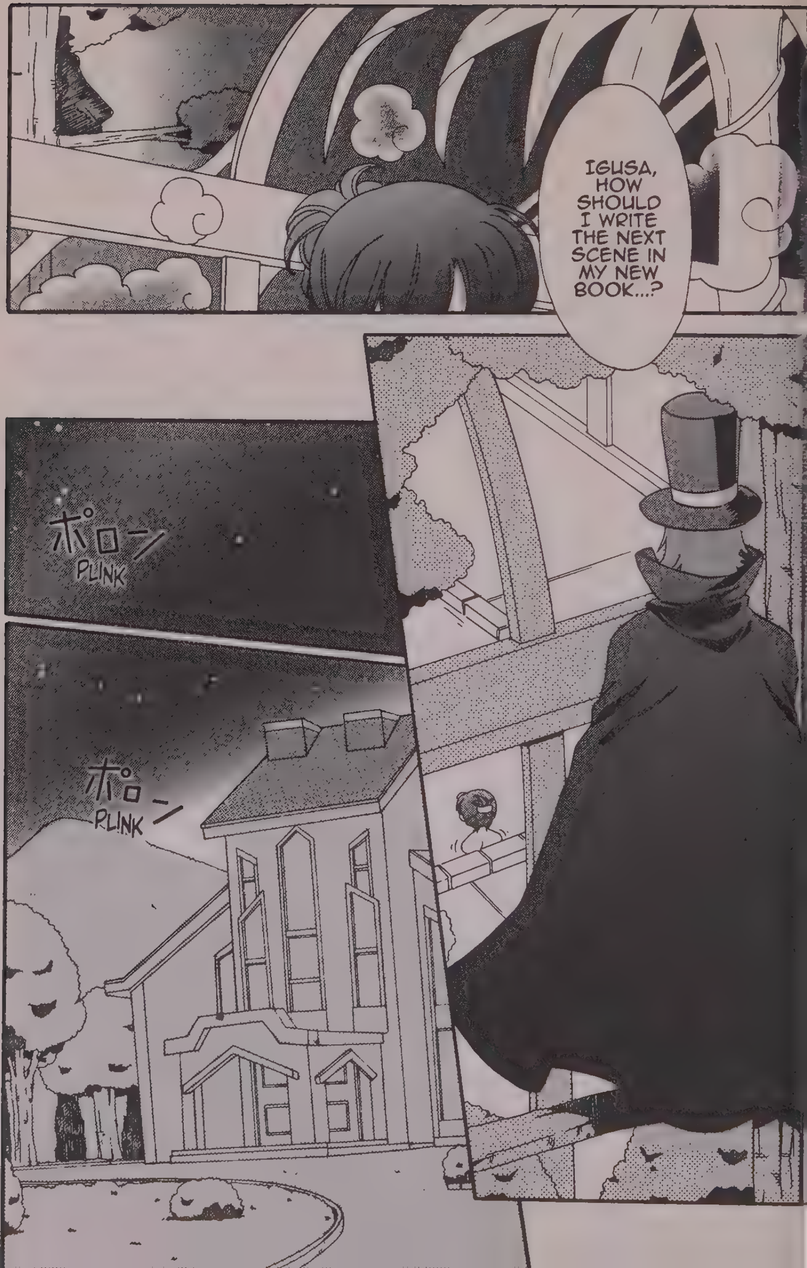
WHY DOES KEITA USE FROG ERASERS?
I'LL PUT THAT QUESTION ASIDE FOR NOW.
CONGRATULATIONS ON THE RELEASE OF *INUKAMI!* VOLUME TWO.
I'M GLAD THAT THE SERIES IS PROGRESSING AT A STEADY PACE.
I LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO ANSWER
THAT QUESTION IN A FUTURE VOLUME OF THE MANGA.

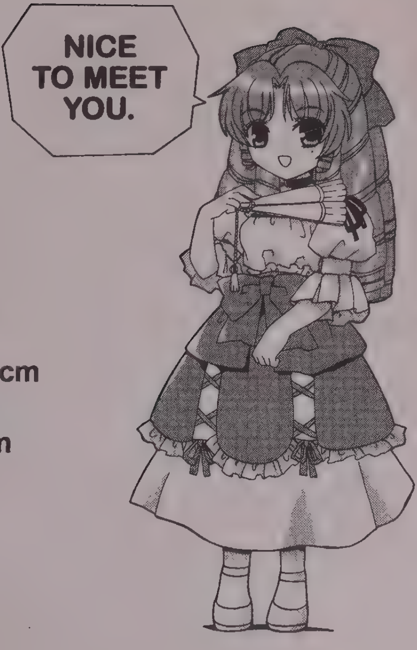


MAMIZU ARISAWA


パシャ
SPLISH
…
SIGH…
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

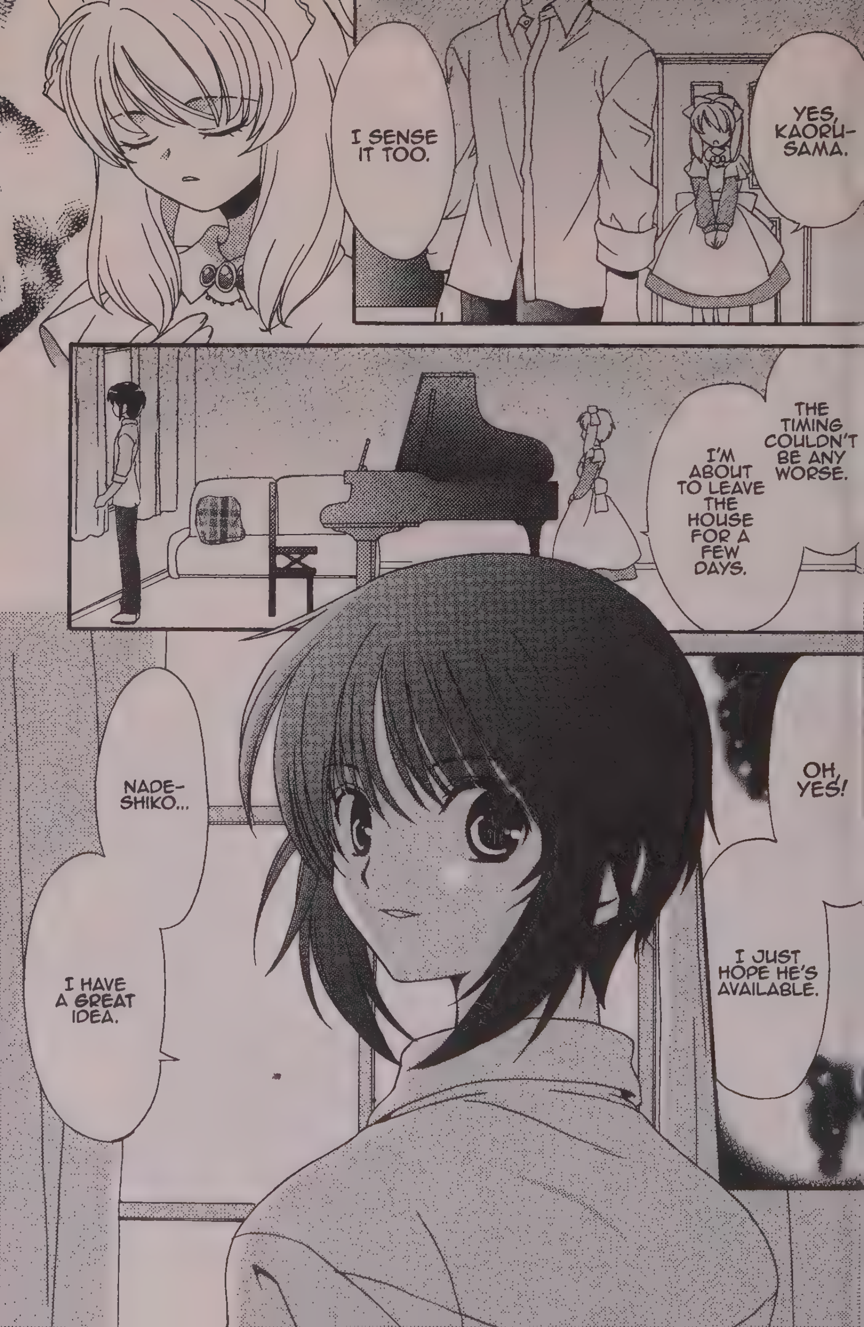
Step.11 Little Red Riding Hoods, Beware! Part 1

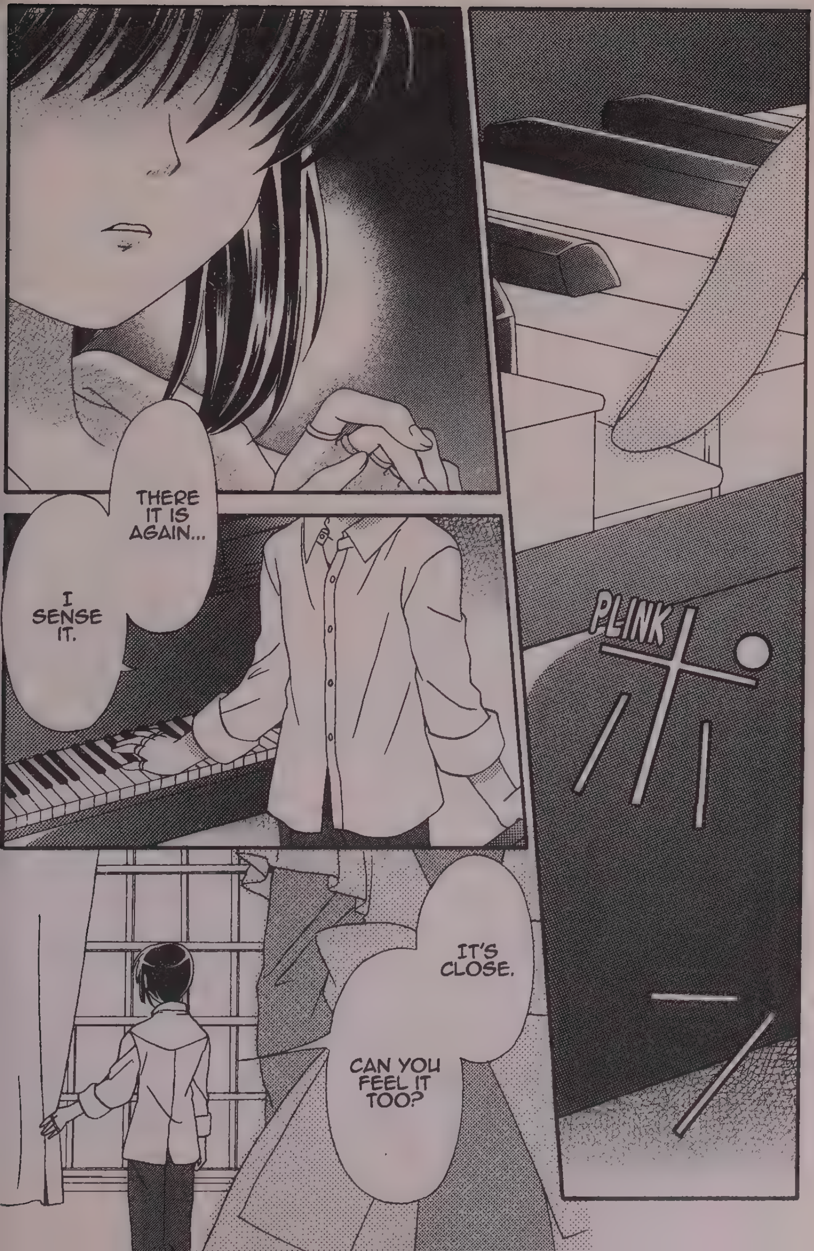

IGUSA, HOW SHOULD I WRITE THE NEXT SCENE IN MY NEW BOOK...?
ポロン
PLINK
ポロン
PLINK

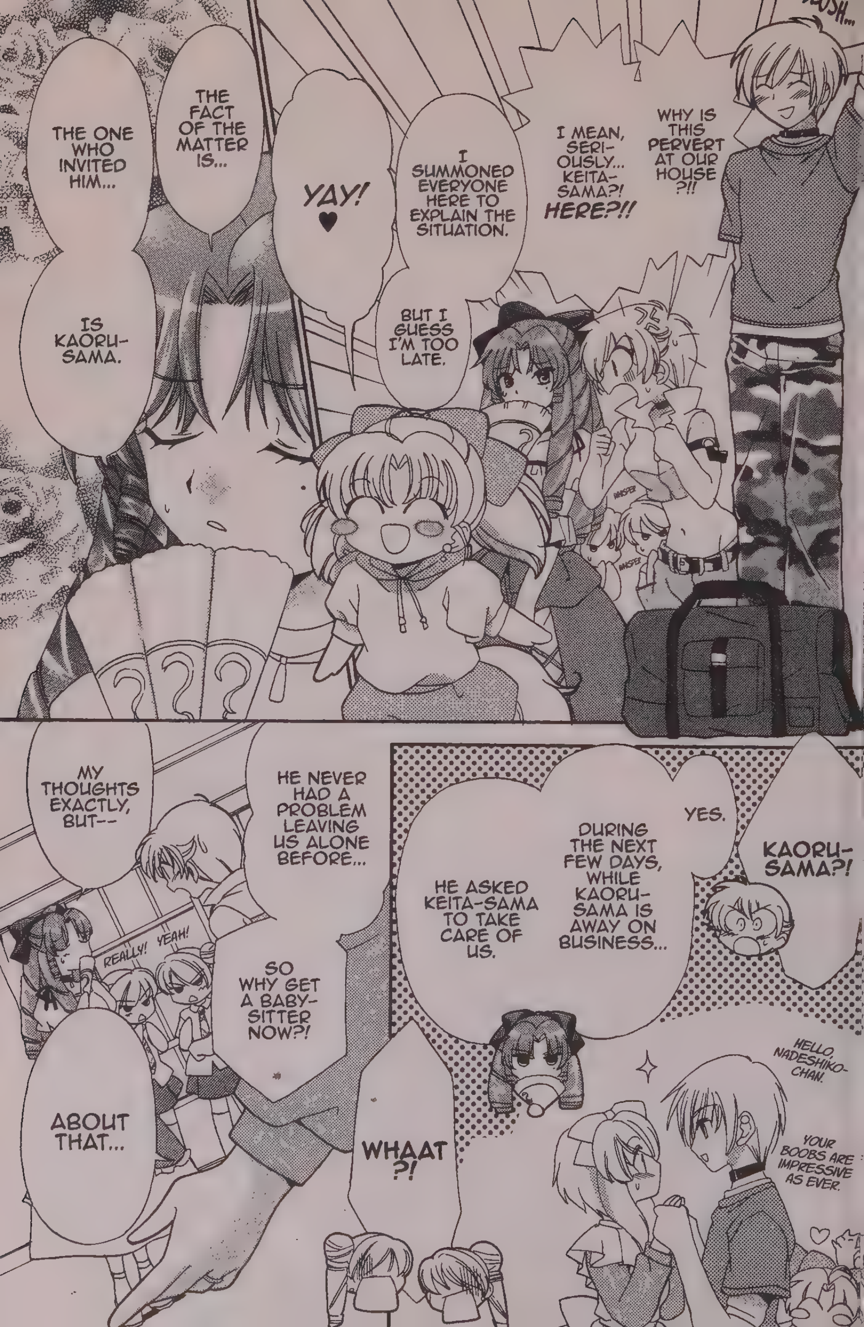

NICE TO MEET YOU.

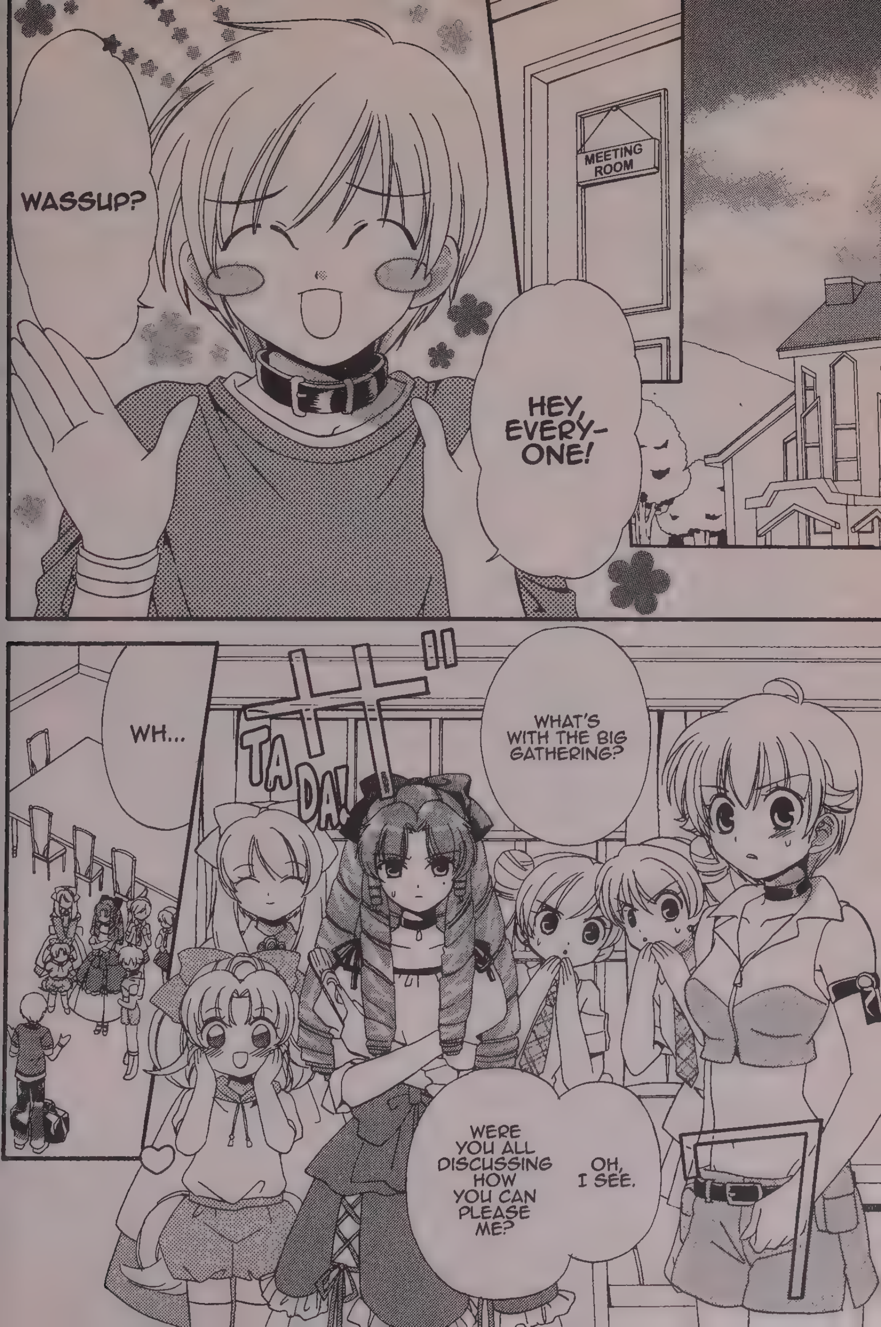
SENDAN

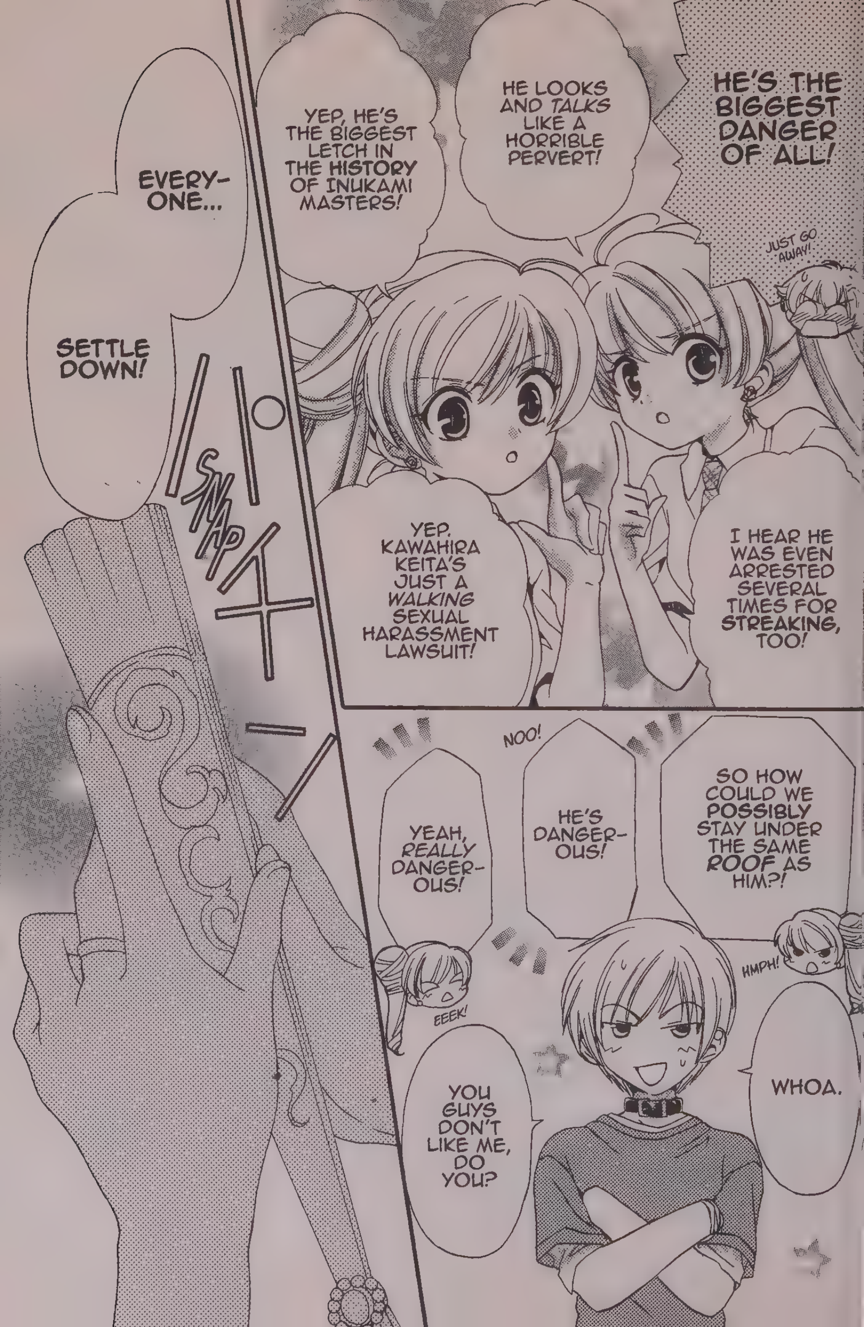
Height: 162 cm
Bust: 82 cm
Waist: 58 cm
Hip: 83 cm
Age: 124

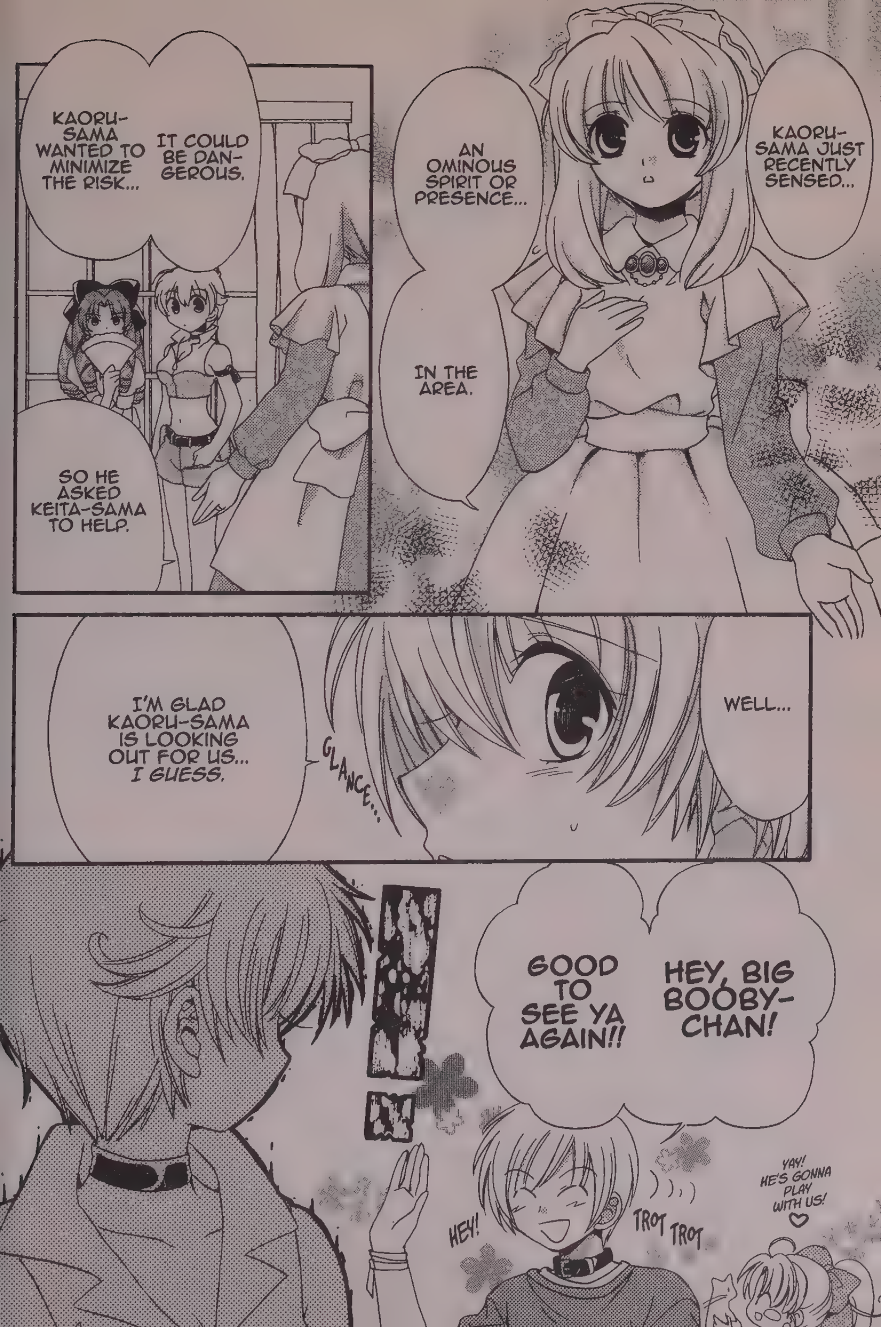

YES, KAORU-SAMA.
I SENSE IT TOO.
THE TIMING COULDN'T BE ANY WORSE.
I'M ABOUT TO LEAVE THE HOUSE FOR A FEW DAYS.
OH, YES!
I JUST HOPE HE'S AVAILABLE.
NADESHIKO...
I HAVE A GREAT IDEA.

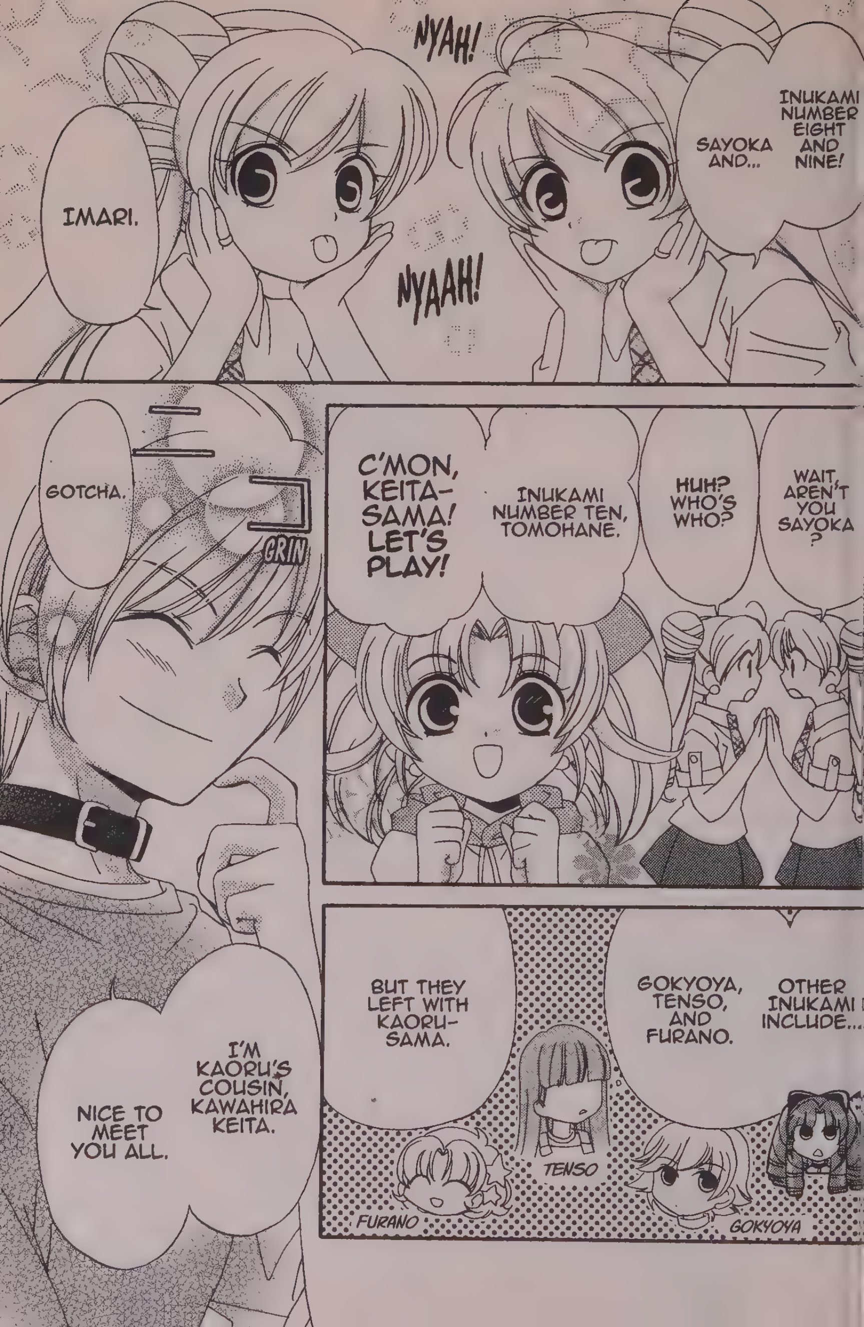

THERE IT IS AGAIN...
I SENSE IT.
PLINK
IT'S CLOSE.
CAN YOU FEEL IT TOO?

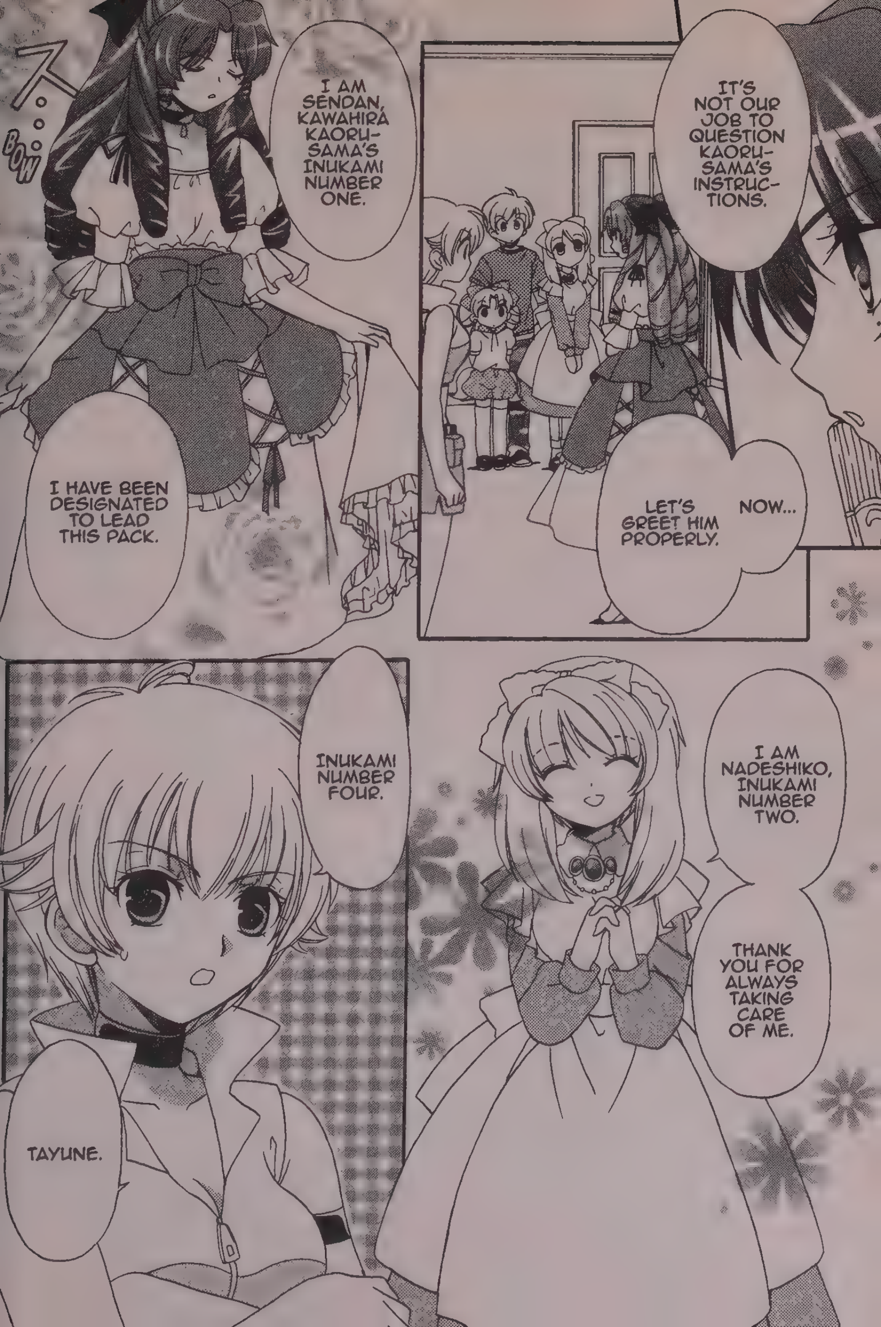

USH...
WHY IS THIS PERVERT AT OUR HOUSE?!!
I MEAN, SERIOUSLY... KEITA-SAMA?! HERE?!!
I SUMMONED EVERYONE HERE TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION.
BUT I GUESS I'M TOO LATE.
YAY! ♥
WHISPER
WHISPER
THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS...
THE ONE WHO INVITED HIM...
IS KAORU-SAMA.
KAORU-SAMA?!
YES.
DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS, WHILE KAORU-SAMA IS AWAY ON BUSINESS...
HE ASKED KEITA-SAMA TO TAKE CARE OF US.
HELLO, NADESHIKO-CHAN.
YOUR BOOBS ARE IMPRESSIVE AS EVER.
HE NEVER HAD A PROBLEM LEAVING US ALONE BEFORE...
MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY, BUT--
YEAH!
REALLY!
SO WHY GET A BABY-SITTER NOW?!
WHAAT?!
ABOUT THAT...

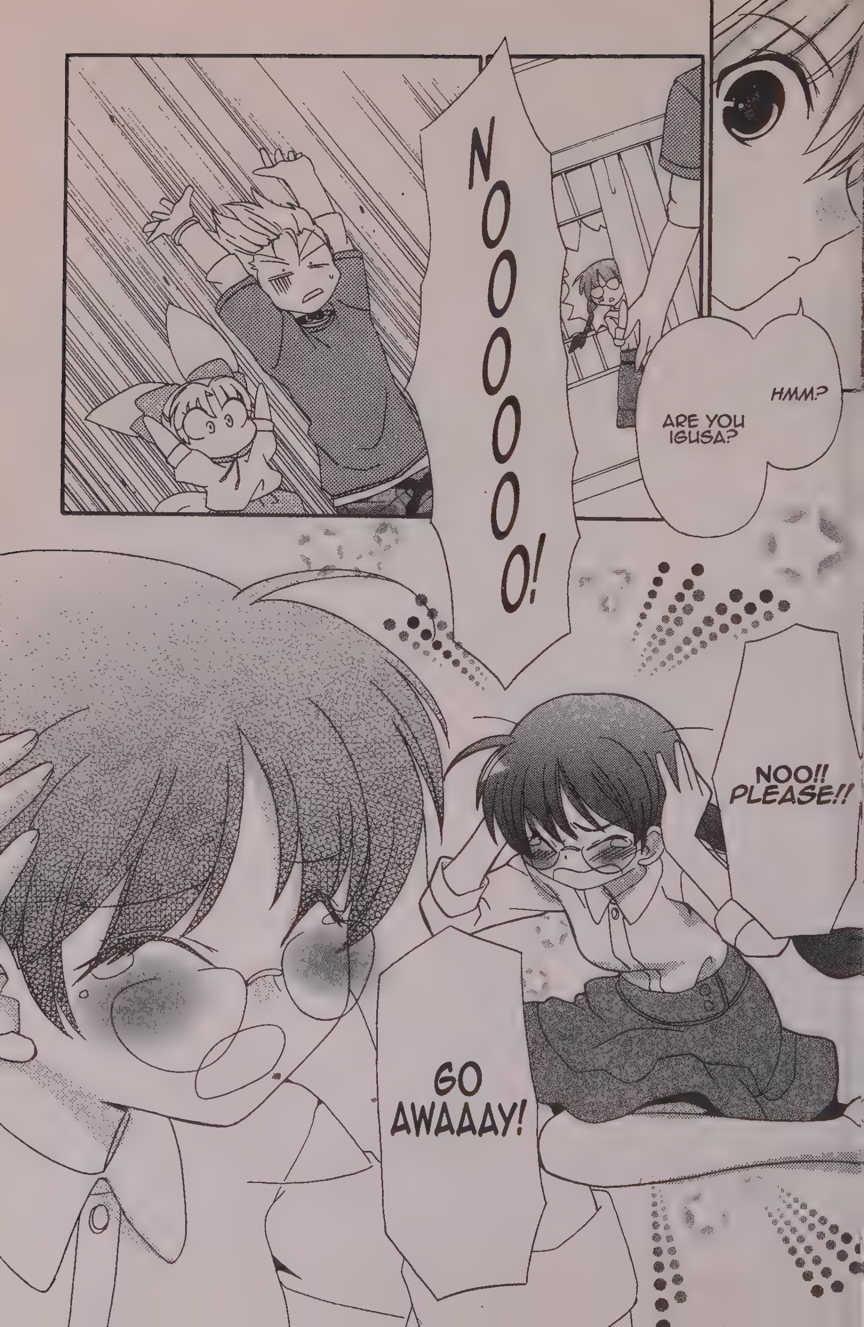

MEETING ROOM
HEY, EVERYONE!
WASSUP?
WHAT'S WITH THE BIG GATHERING?
TA DA!
WH...
OH, I SEE.
WERE YOU ALL DISCUSSING HOW YOU CAN PLEASE ME?

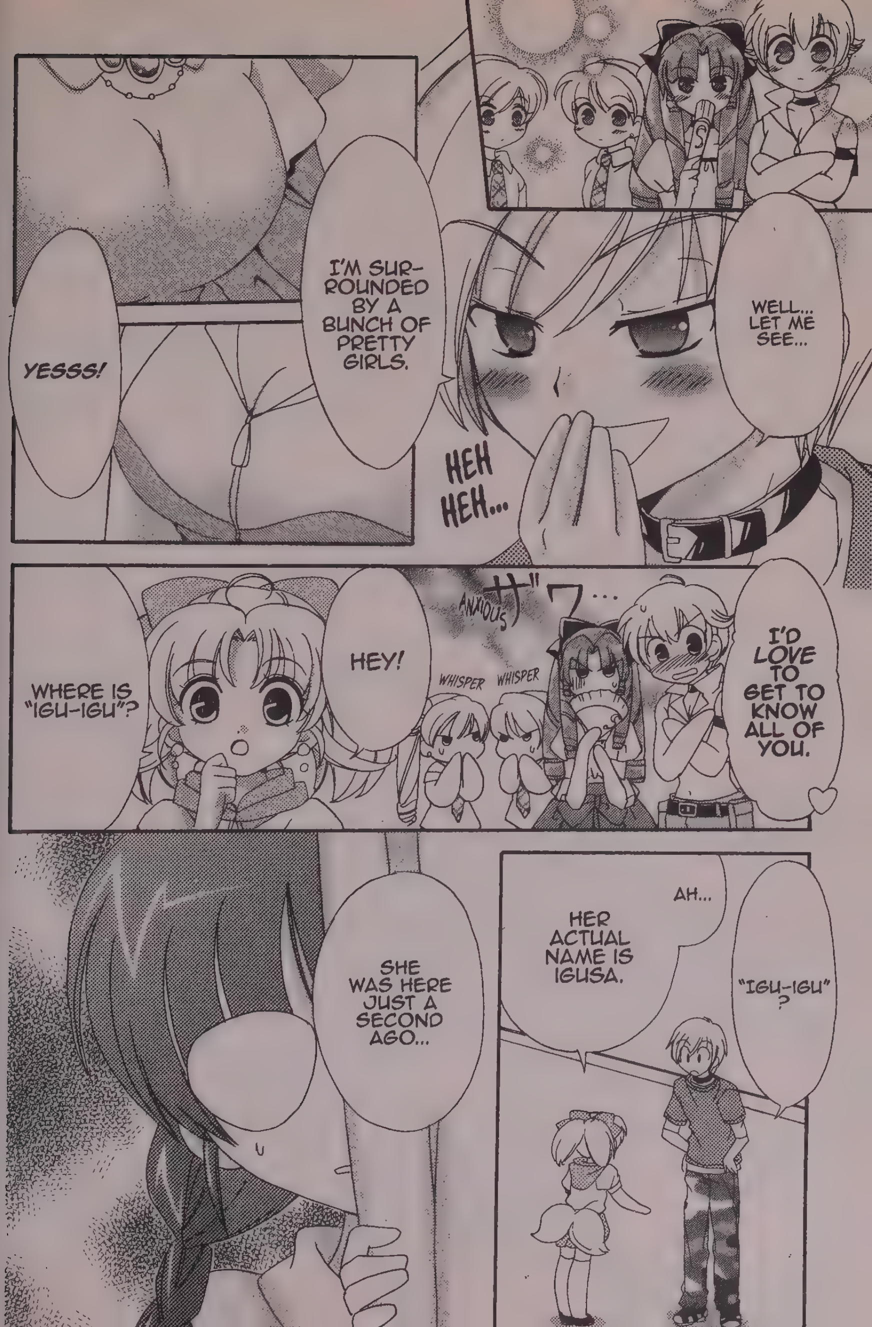

HE'S THE BIGGEST DANGER OF ALL!
JUST GO AWAY!
HE LOOKS AND TALKS LIKE A HORRIBLE PERVERT!
YEP, HE'S THE BIGGEST LETCH IN THE HISTORY OF INUKAMI MASTERS!
I HEAR HE WAS EVEN ARRESTED SEVERAL TIMES FOR STREAKING, TOO!
YEP. KAWAHIRA KEITA'S JUST A WALKING SEXUAL HARASSMENT LAWSUIT!
SO HOW COULD WE POSSIBLY STAY UNDER THE SAME ROOF AS HIM?!
NOO!
HE'S DANGEROUS!
YEAH, REALLY DANGEROUS!
HMPH!
WHOA.
EEEK!
YOU GUYS DON'T LIKE ME, DO YOU?
EVERYONE...
SETTLE DOWN!
SNAP

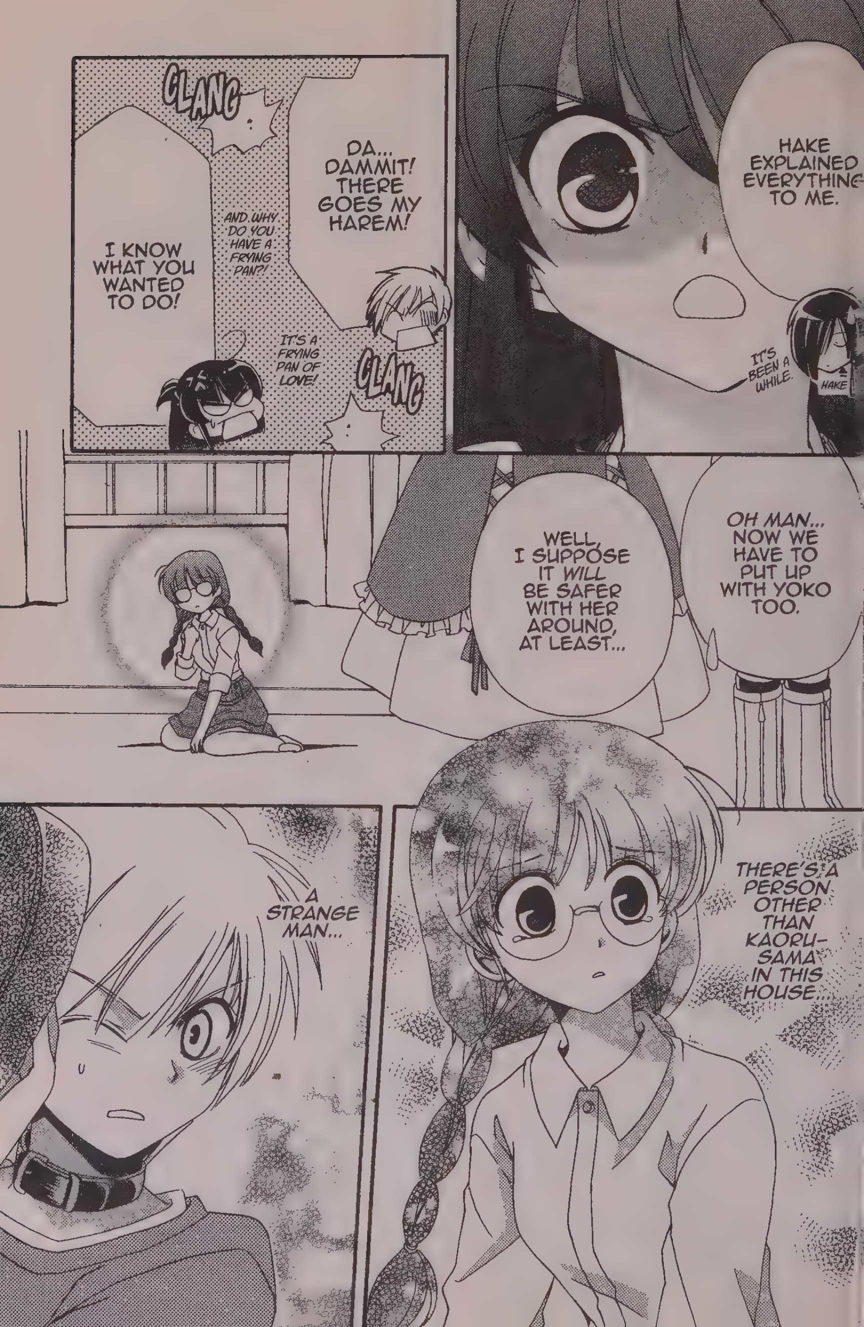

KAORU-SAMA JUST RECENTLY SENSED...
AN OMINOUS SPIRIT OR PRESENCE...
IN THE AREA.
IT COULD BE DANGEROUS.
KAORU-SAMA WANTED TO MINIMIZE THE RISK...
SO HE ASKED KEITA-SAMA TO HELP.
WELL...
GLANCE...
I'M GLAD KAORU-SAMA IS LOOKING OUT FOR US... I GUESS.
HEY, BIG BOOBY-CHAN!
GOOD TO SEE YA AGAIN!!
!!
YAY! HE'S GONNA PLAY WITH US! ♡
TROT TROT
HEY!

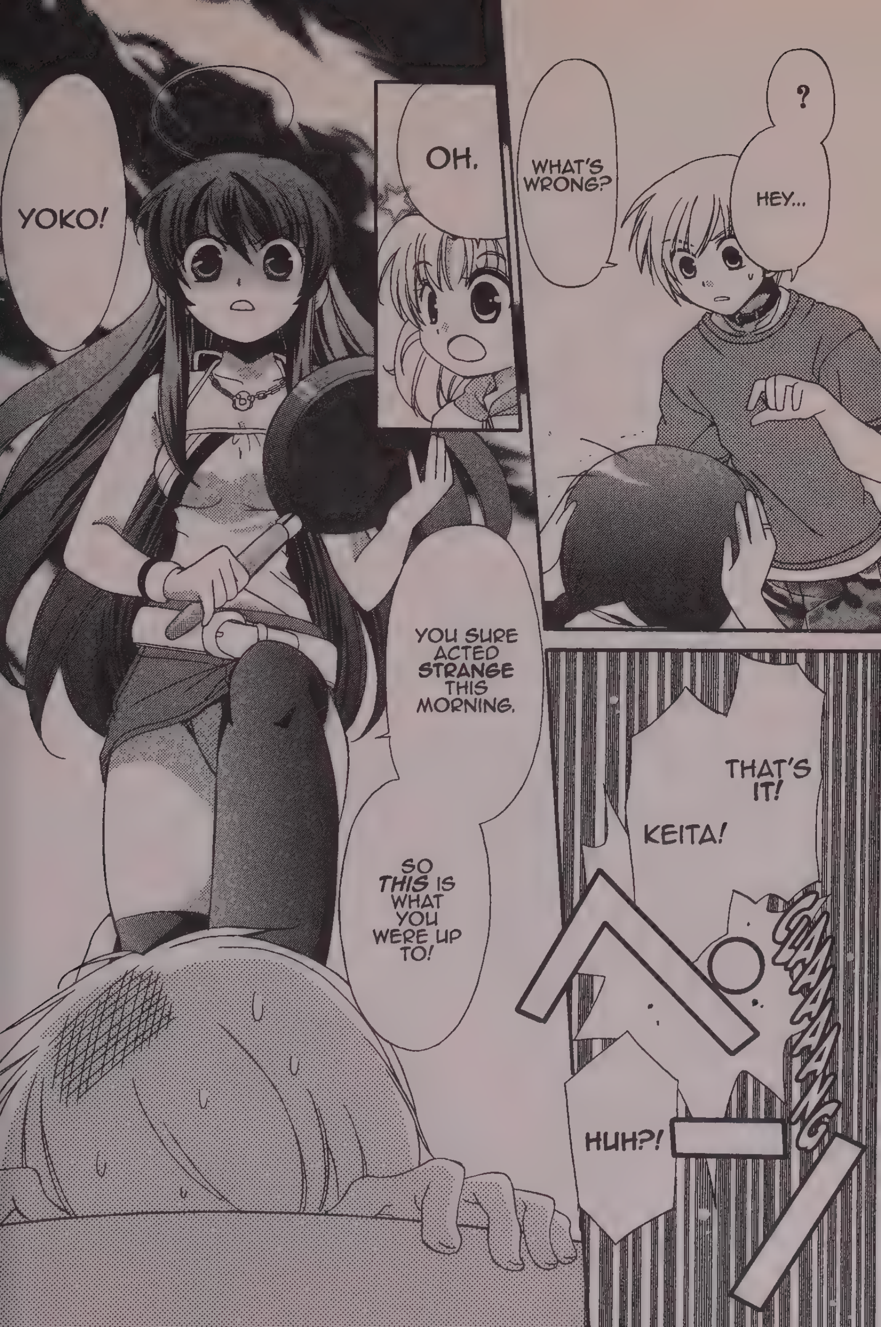

INUKAMI NUMBER EIGHT AND NINE!
SAYOKA AND...
NYAH!
NYAAH!
IMARI.
WAIT, AREN'T YOU SAYOKA?
HUH? WHO'S WHO?
INUKAMI NUMBER TEN, TOMOHANE.
C'MON, KEITA-SAMA! LET'S PLAY!
GOTCHA.
GRIN
OTHER INUKAMI INCLUDE...
GOKYOYA, TENSO, AND FURANO.
BUT THEY LEFT WITH KAORU-SAMA.
TENSO
FURANO
GOKYOYA
I'M KAORU'S COUSIN, KAWAHIRA KEITA.
NICE TO MEET YOU ALL.

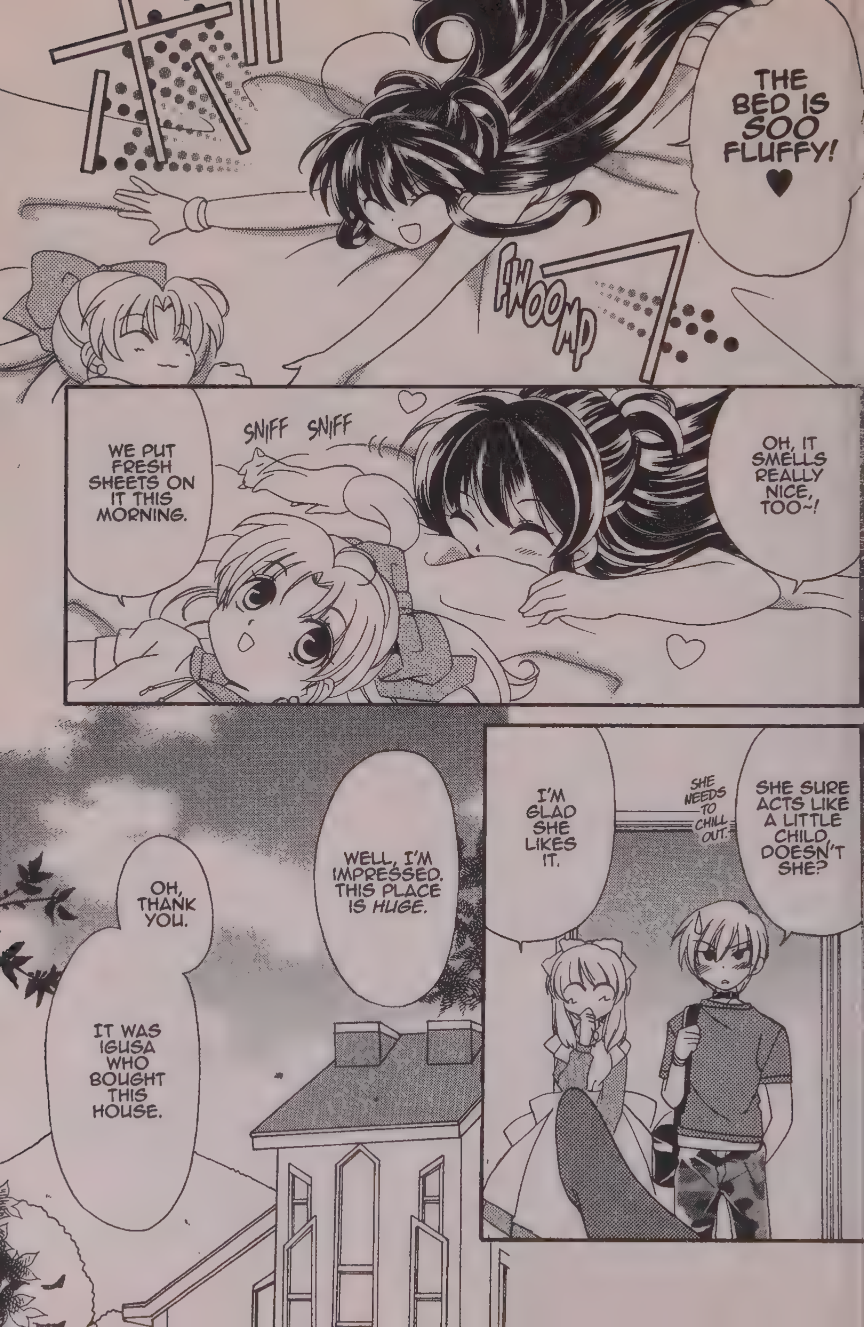

IT'S NOT OUR JOB TO QUESTION KAORU-SAMA'S INSTRUCTIONS.
NOW...
LET'S GREET HIM PROPERLY.
ス
BOW
I AM SENDAN, KAWAHIRA KAORU-SAMA'S INUKAMI NUMBER ONE.
I HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED TO LEAD THIS PACK.
I AM NADESHIKO, INUKAMI NUMBER TWO.
THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS TAKING CARE OF ME.
INUKAMI NUMBER FOUR.
TAYUNE.

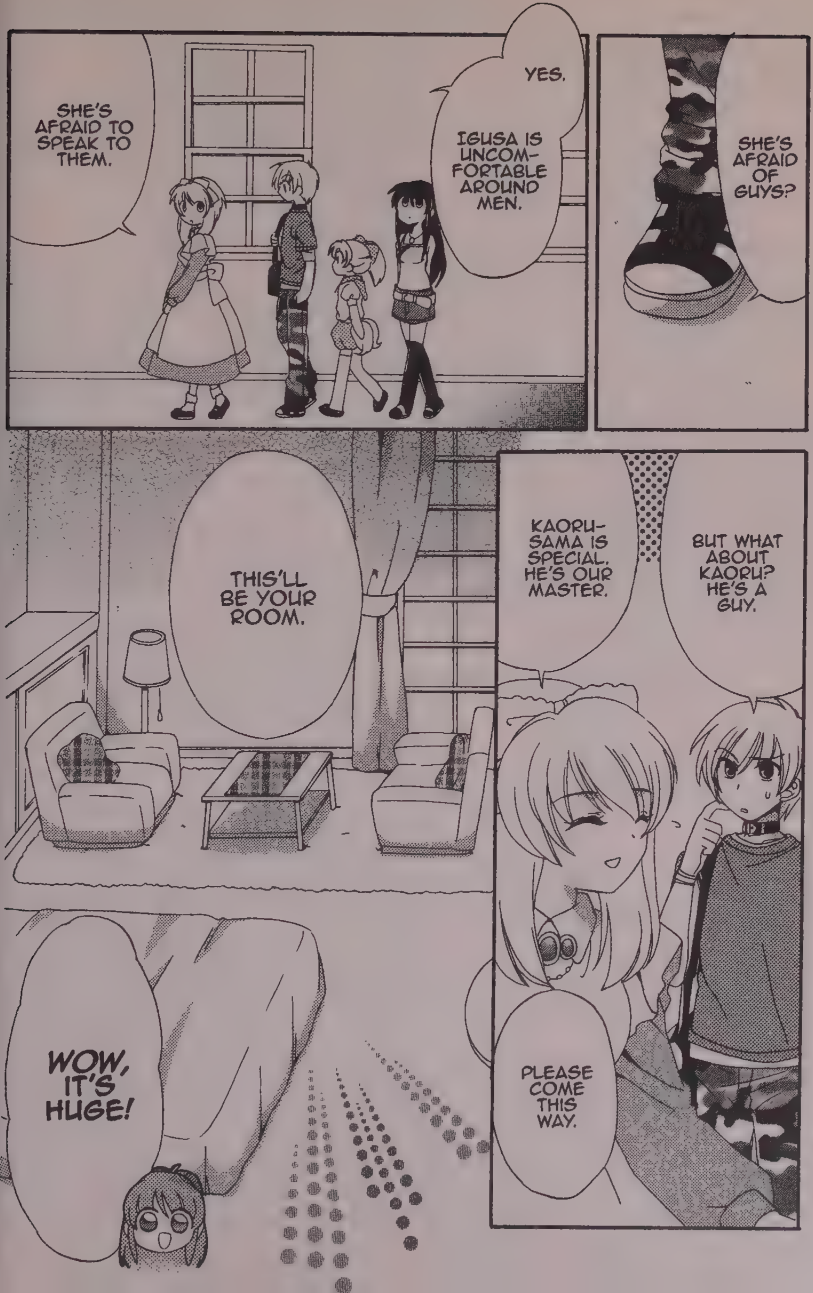

HMM?
ARE YOU IGUSA?
NOOOOOOO!
NOO!! PLEASE!!
GO AWAAAY!

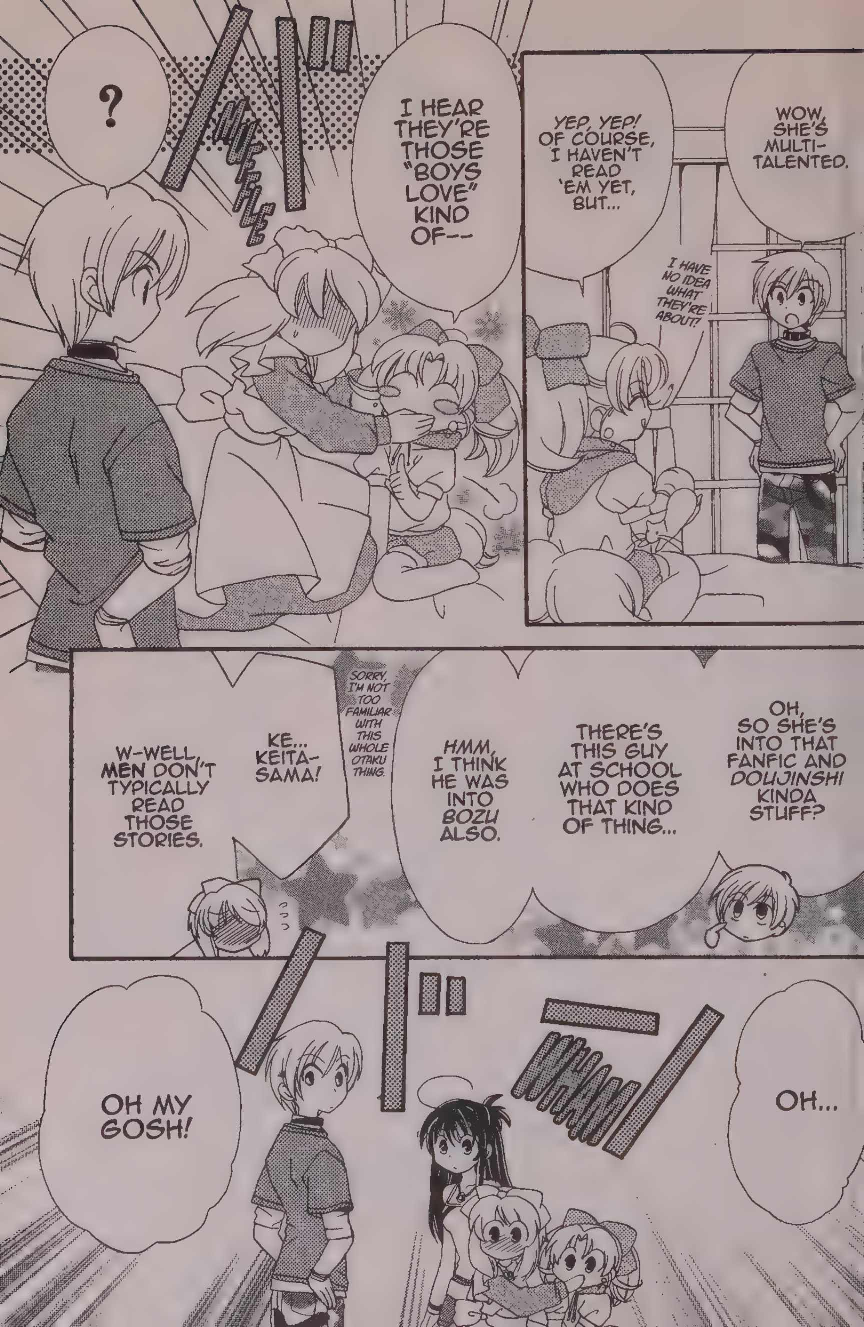

WELL... LET ME SEE...
HEH HEH...
I'M SURROUNDED BY A BUNCH OF PRETTY GIRLS.
YESSS!
I'D LOVE TO GET TO KNOW ALL OF YOU.
ザワ...
ANXIOUS
WHISPER
WHISPER
HEY!
WHERE IS "IGU-IGU"?
"IGU-IGU"?
AH...
HER ACTUAL NAME IS IGUSA.
SHE WAS HERE JUST A SECOND AGO...

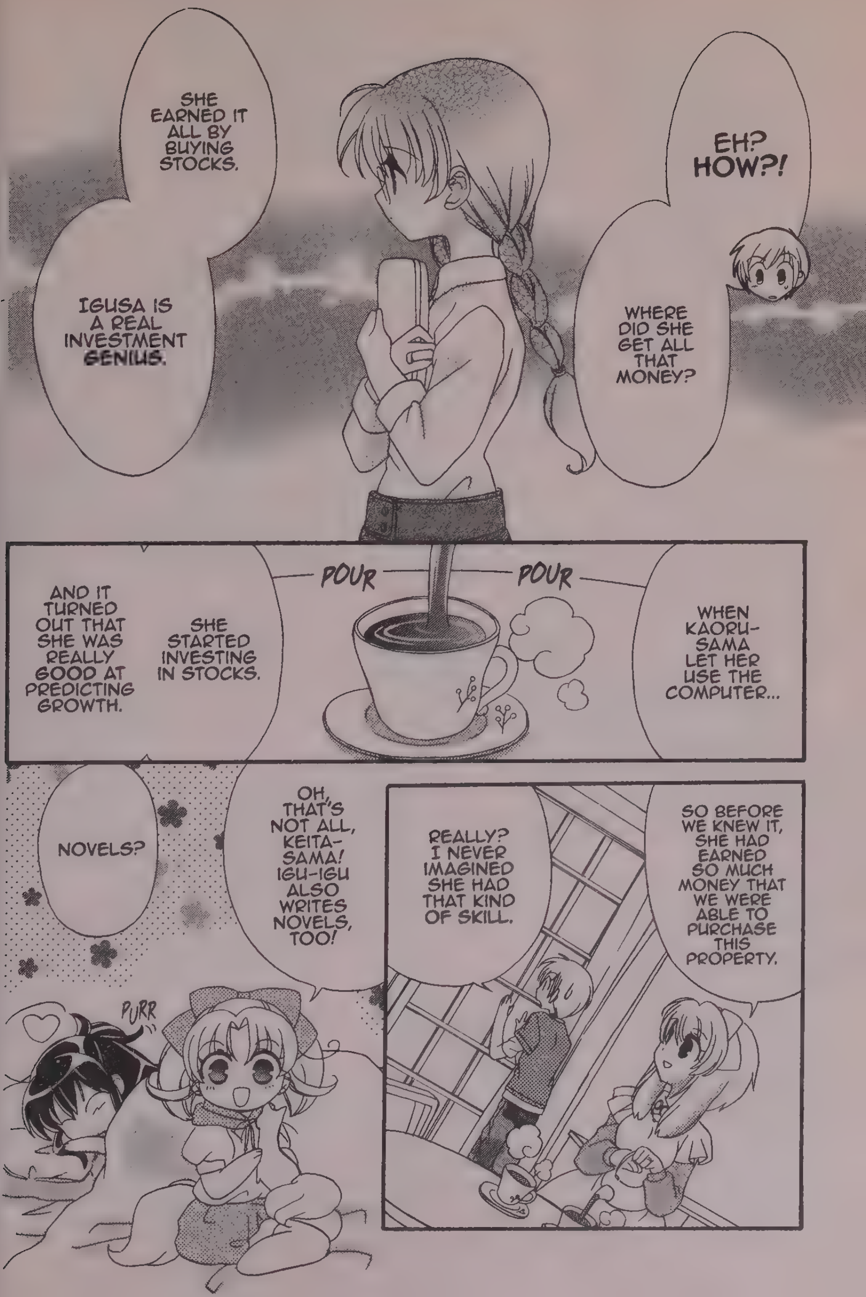

HAKE EXPLAINED EVERYTHING TO ME.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
HAKE
CLANG
DA... DAMMIT! THERE GOES MY HAREM!
AND WHY DO YOU HAVE A FRYING PAN?!
I KNOW WHAT YOU WANTED TO DO!
IT'S A FRYING PAN OF LOVE!
CLANG
OH MAN... NOW WE HAVE TO PUT UP WITH YOKO TOO.
WELL, I SUPPOSE IT *WILL* BE SAFER WITH HER AROUND, AT LEAST...
THERE'S A PERSON OTHER THAN KAORU-SAMA IN THIS HOUSE...
A STRANGE MAN...

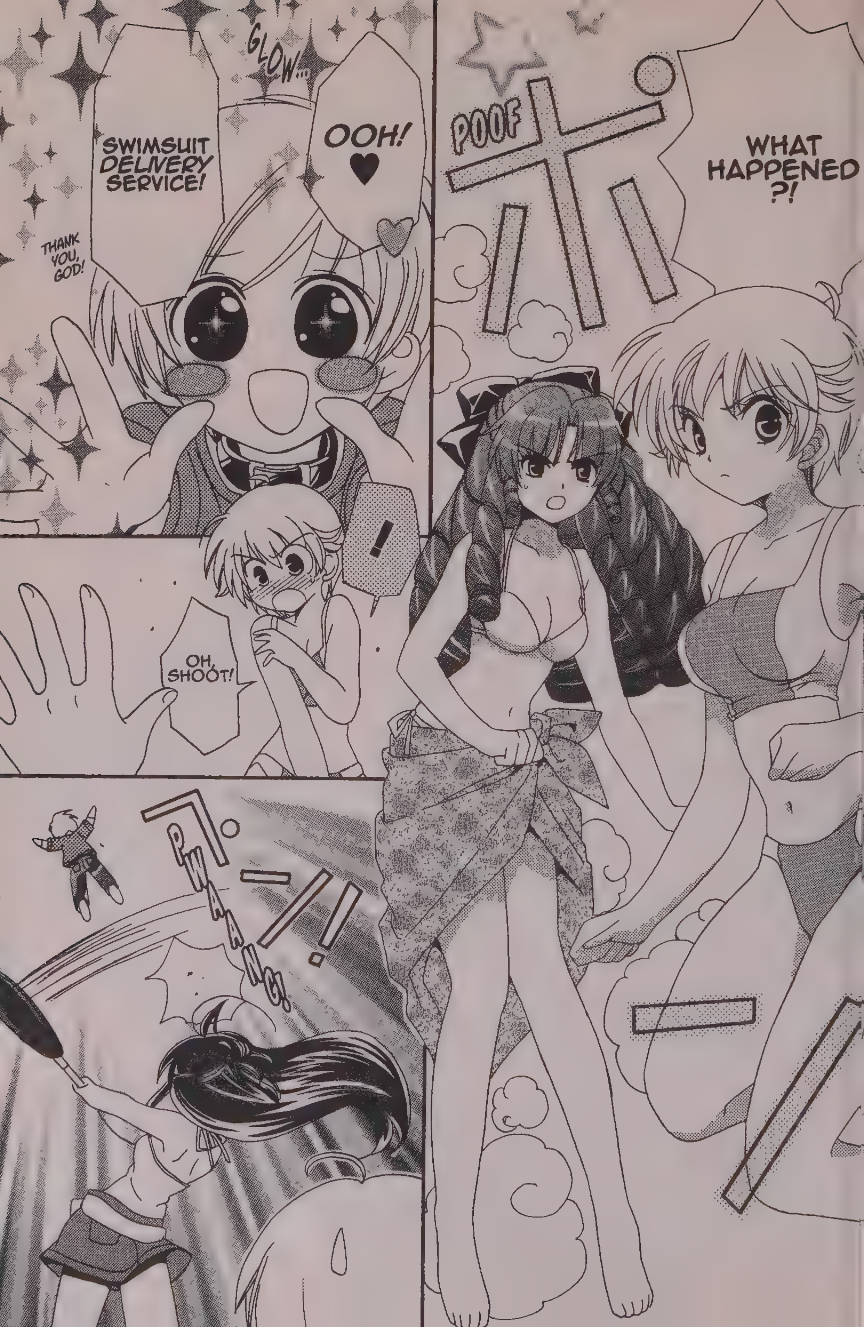

?
HEY...
WHAT'S WRONG?
OH.
YOKO!
YOU SURE ACTED STRANGE THIS MORNING.
SO THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE UP TO!
THAT'S IT!
KEITA!
HUH?!
CLAAAAANG

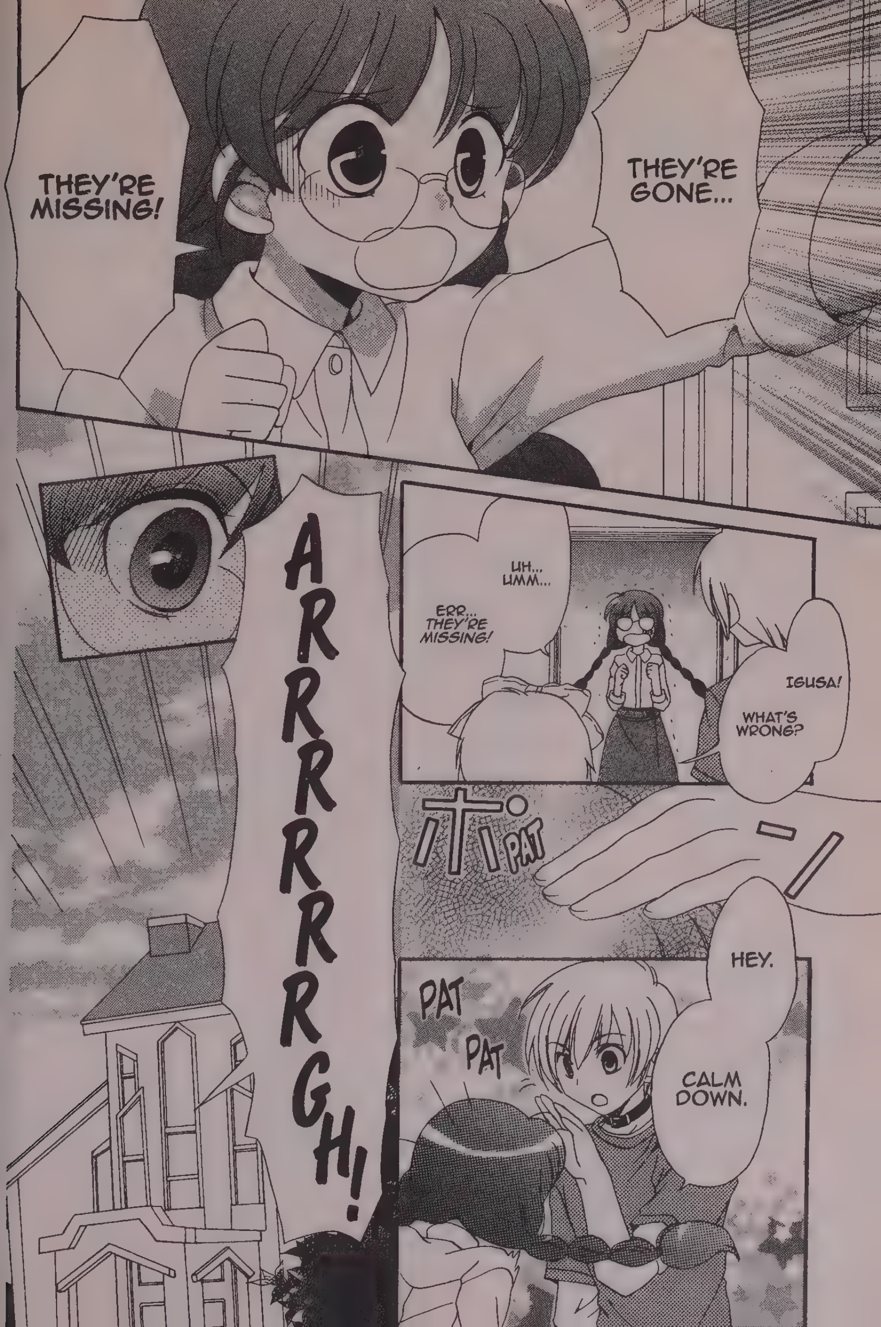

THE BED IS SOO FLUFFY! ♥
FWOOMP
OH, IT SMELLS REALLY NICE, TOO~!
SNIFF SNIFF
WE PUT FRESH SHEETS ON IT THIS MORNING.
SHE SURE ACTS LIKE A LITTLE CHILD DOESN'T SHE?
SHE NEEDS TO CHILL OUT.
I'M GLAD SHE LIKES IT.
WELL, I'M IMPRESSED. THIS PLACE IS *HUGE*.
OH, THANK YOU.
IT WAS IGUSA WHO BOUGHT THIS HOUSE.

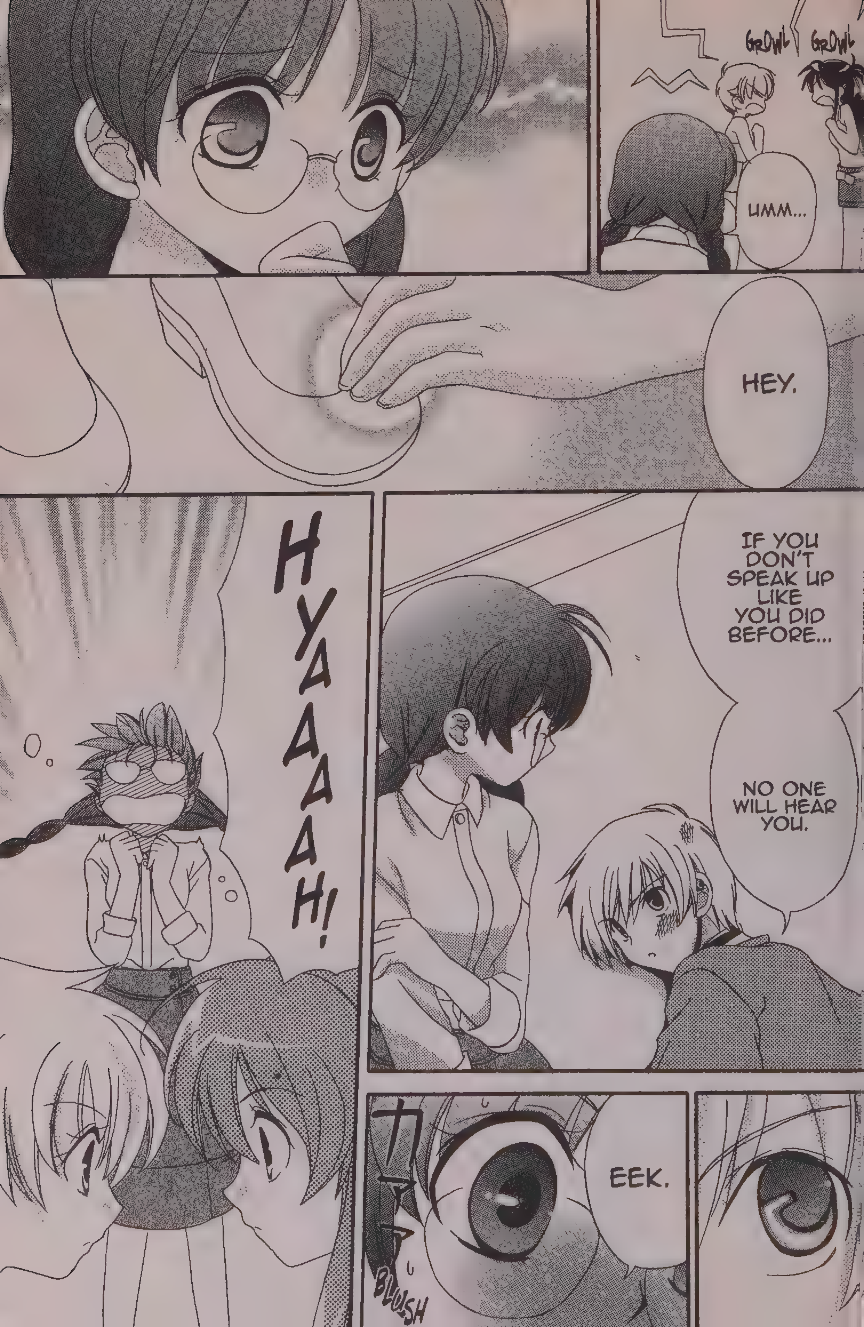

SHE'S AFRAID OF GUYS?
YES.
IGUSA IS UNCOMFORTABLE AROUND MEN.
SHE'S AFRAID TO SPEAK TO THEM.
BUT WHAT ABOUT KAORU? HE'S A GUY.
KAORU-SAMA IS SPECIAL. HE'S OUR MASTER.
PLEASE COME THIS WAY.
THIS'LL BE YOUR ROOM.
WOW, IT'S HUGE!

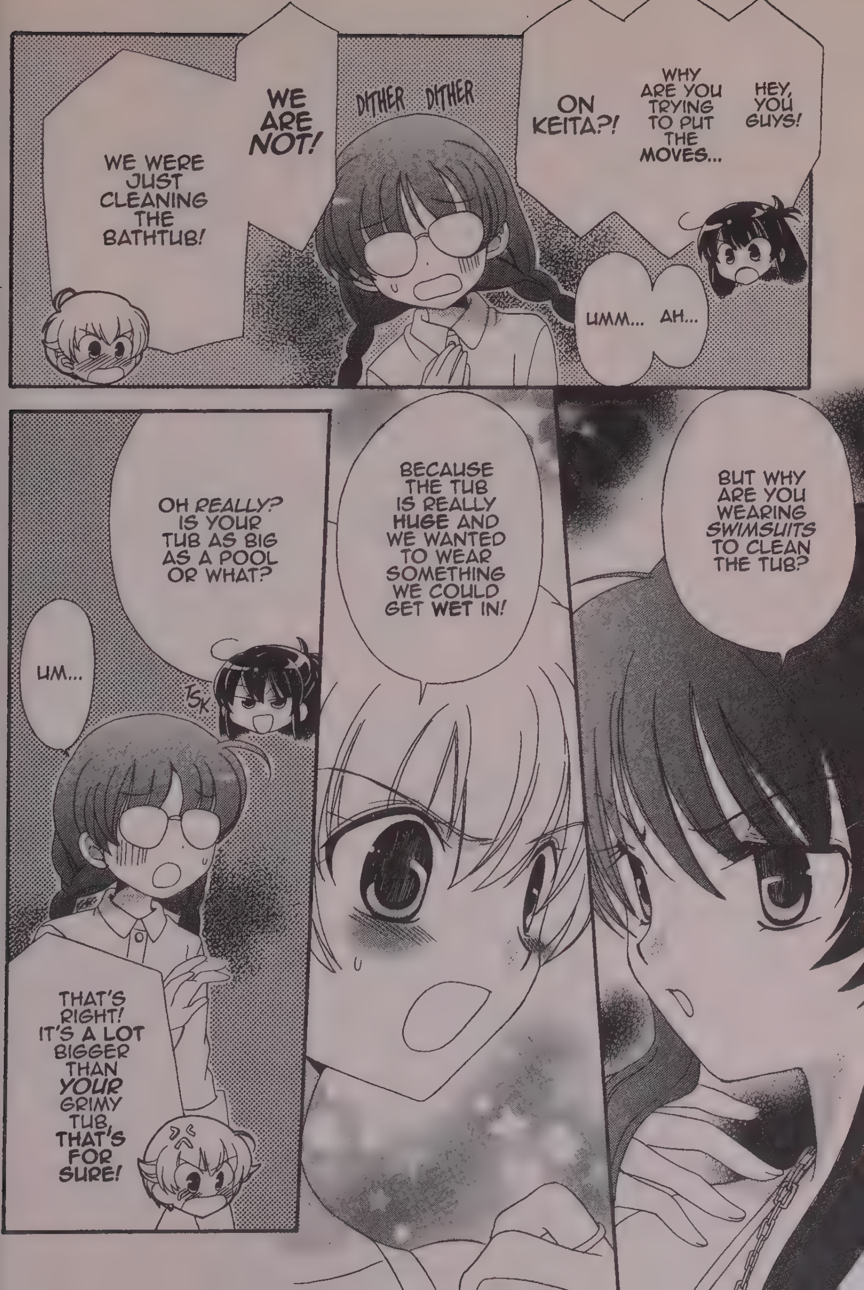

WOW, SHE'S MULTI-TALENTED.
YEP, YEP! OF COURSE, I HAVEN'T READ 'EM YET, BUT...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY'RE ABOUT!
I HEAR THEY'RE THOSE "BOYS LOVE" KIND OF--
MUFFLE
?
OH, SO SHE'S INTO THAT FANFIC AND DOUJINSHI KINDA STUFF?
THERE'S THIS GUY AT SCHOOL WHO DOES THAT KIND OF THING...
HMM, I THINK HE WAS INTO BOZU ALSO.
SORRY, I'M NOT TOO FAMILIAR WITH THIS WHOLE OTAKU THING.
KE... KEITA-SAMA!
W-WELL, MEN DON'T TYPICALLY READ THOSE STORIES.
OH...
WHAM!
OH MY GOSH!

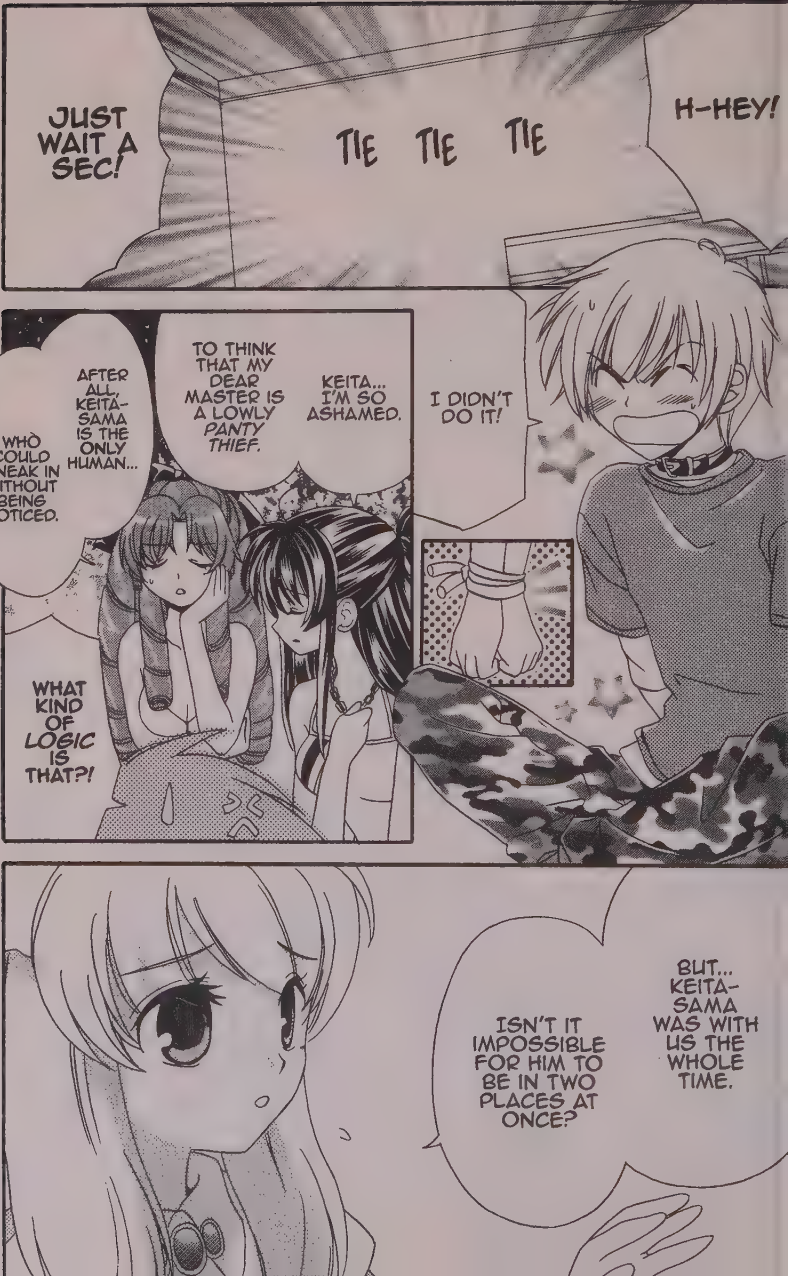

EH? HOW?!
WHERE DID SHE GET ALL THAT MONEY?
SHE EARNED IT ALL BY BUYING STOCKS.
IGUSA IS A REAL INVESTMENT GENIUS.
WHEN KAORU-SAMA LET HER USE THE COMPUTER...
POUR
POUR
SHE STARTED INVESTING IN STOCKS.
AND IT TURNED OUT THAT SHE WAS REALLY GOOD AT PREDICTING GROWTH.
SO BEFORE WE KNEW IT, SHE HAD EARNED SO MUCH MONEY THAT WE WERE ABLE TO PURCHASE THIS PROPERTY.
REALLY? I NEVER IMAGINED SHE HAD THAT KIND OF SKILL.
OH, THAT'S NOT ALL, KEITA-SAMA! IGU-IGU ALSO WRITES NOVELS, TOO!
NOVELS?
PURR

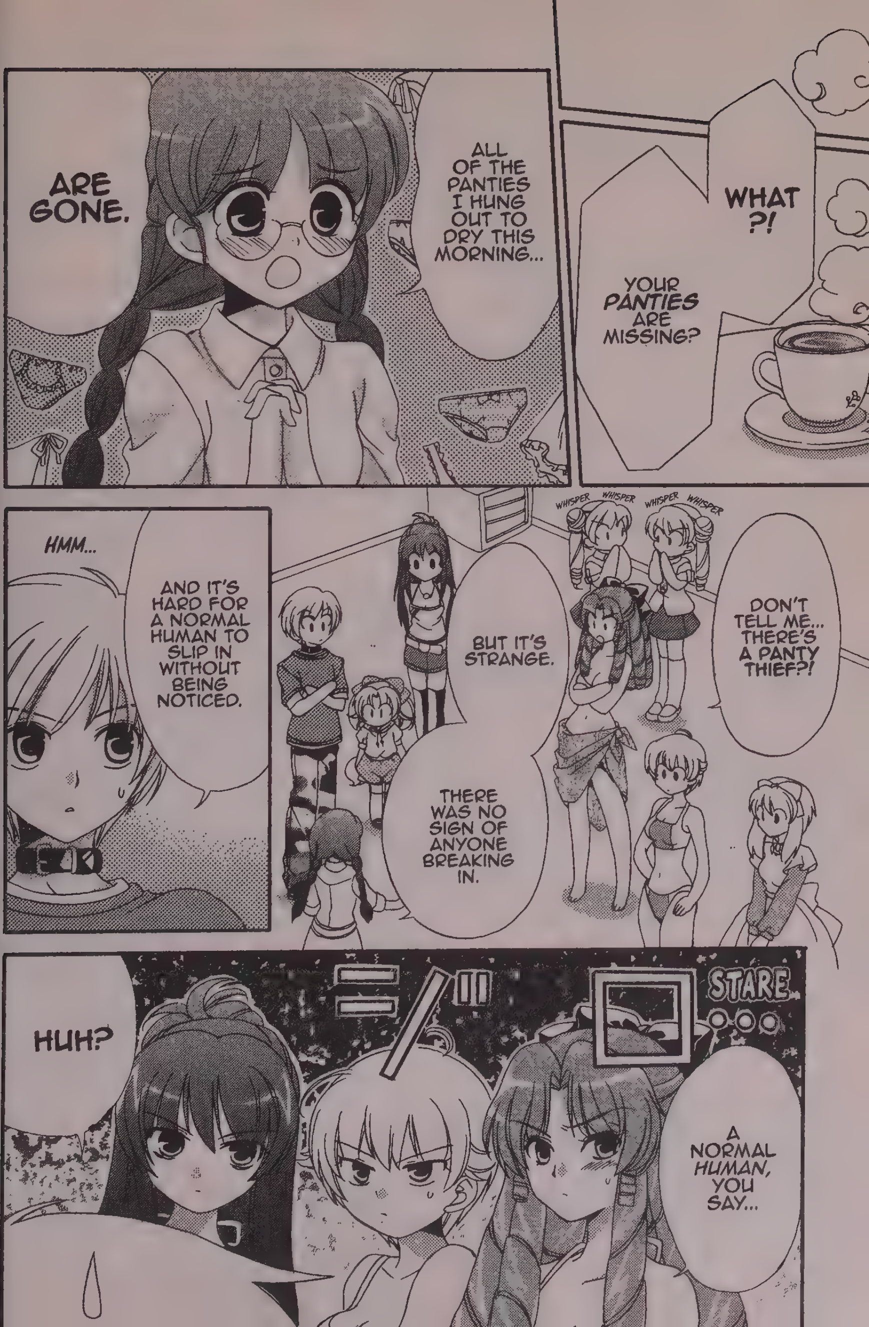

POOF
WHAT HAPPENED?!
GLOW...
OOH! ♥
SWIMSUIT DELIVERY SERVICE!
THANK YOU, GOD!
!
OH, SHOOT!
PWAAANG!

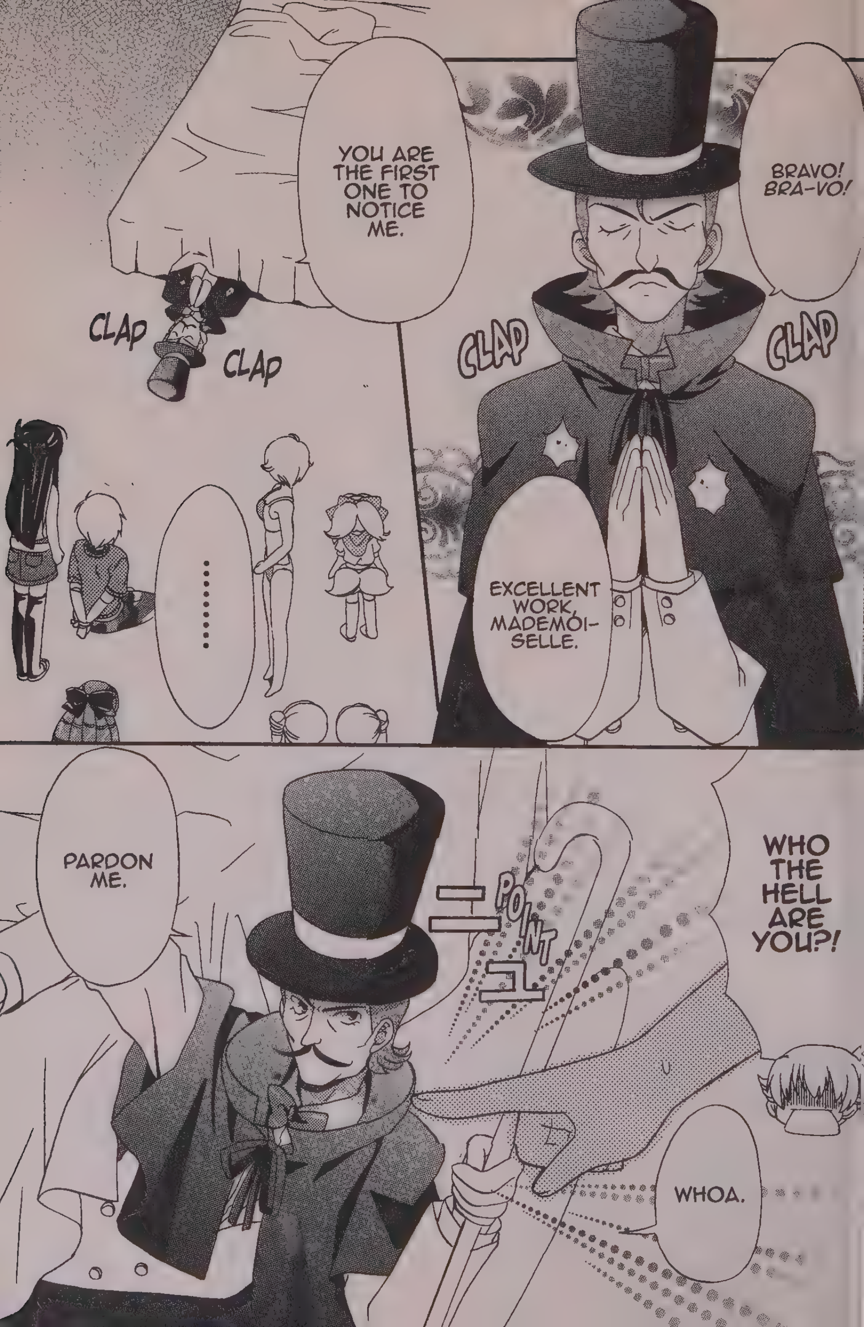

THEY'RE GONE...
THEY'RE MISSING!
ARRRRRGH!
IGUSA!
WHAT'S WRONG?
UH... UMM...
ERR... THEY'RE MISSING!
PAT
HEY.
CALM DOWN.
PAT
PAT

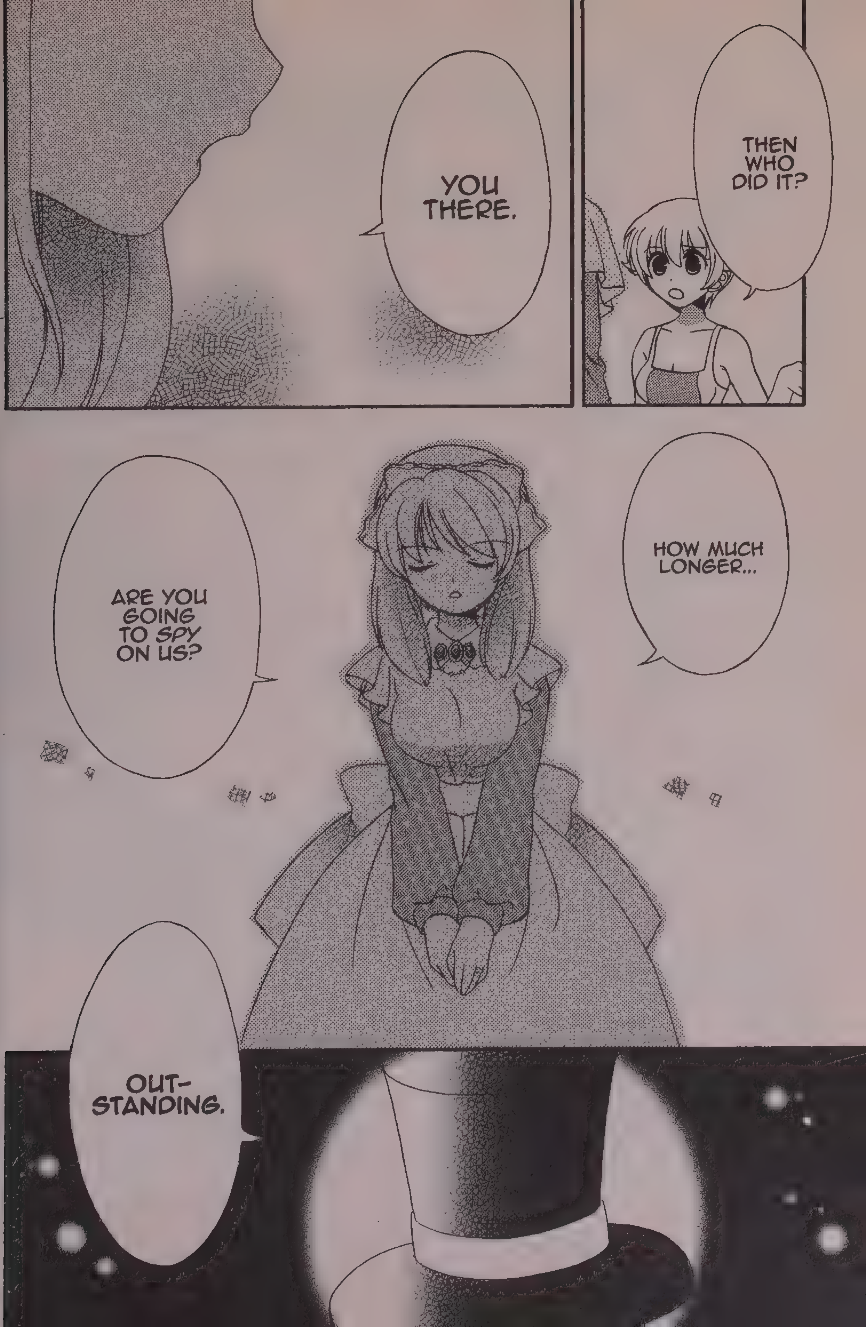

GROWL GROWL
UMM...
HEY.
IF YOU DON'T SPEAK UP LIKE YOU DID BEFORE...
NO ONE WILL HEAR YOU.
HYAAAAH!
EEK.
カァァ
BLUSH

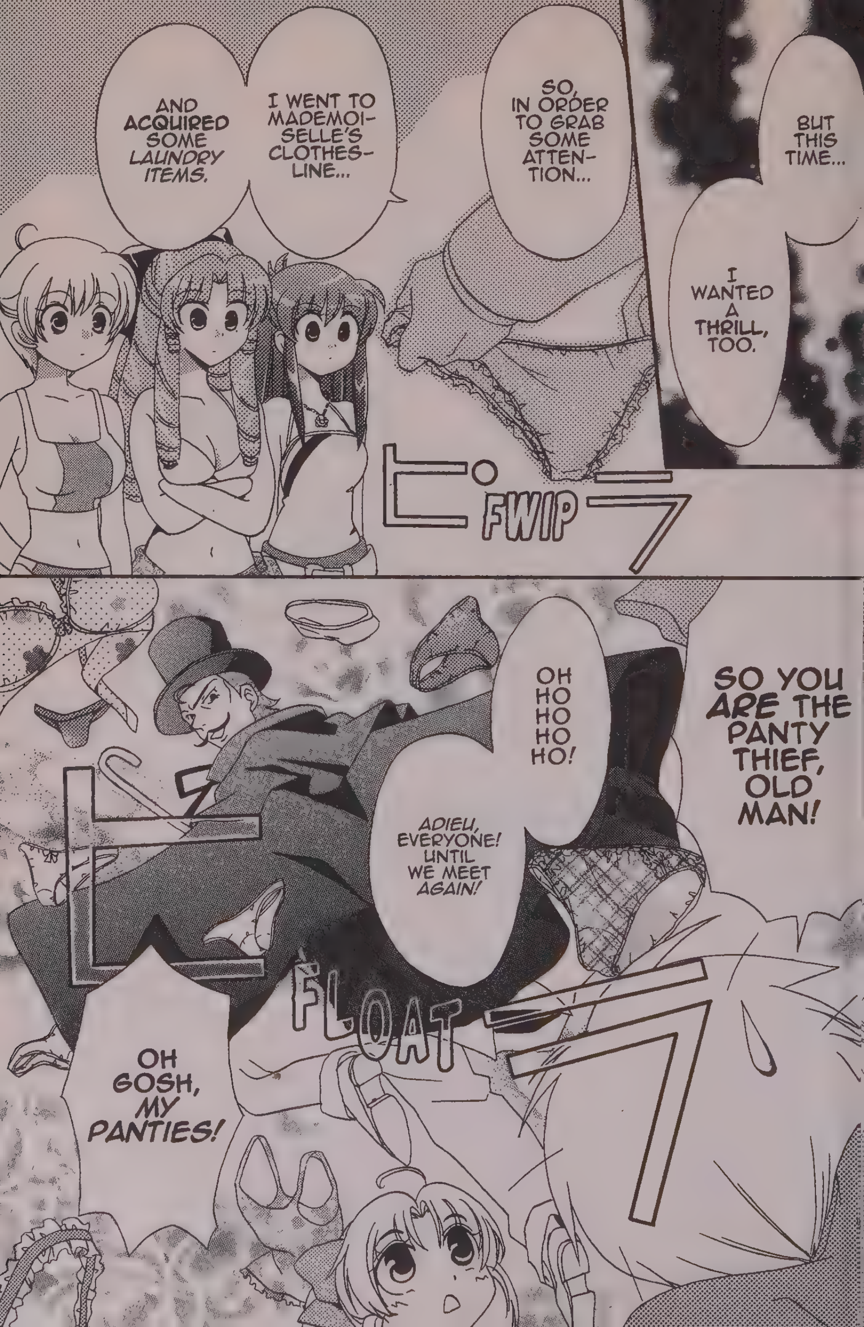

HEY, YOU GUYS!
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO PUT THE MOVES...
ON KEITA?!
UMM... AH...
DITHER DITHER
WE ARE *NOT!*
WE WERE JUST CLEANING THE BATHTUB!
BUT WHY ARE YOU WEARING *SWIMSUITS* TO CLEAN THE TUB?
BECAUSE THE TUB IS REALLY **HUGE** AND WE WANTED TO WEAR SOMETHING WE COULD GET **WET** IN!
OH *REALLY?* IS YOUR TUB AS BIG AS A POOL OR WHAT?
TSK
UM...
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S A LOT BIGGER THAN ***YOUR*** GRIMY TUB, **THAT'S** FOR SURE!

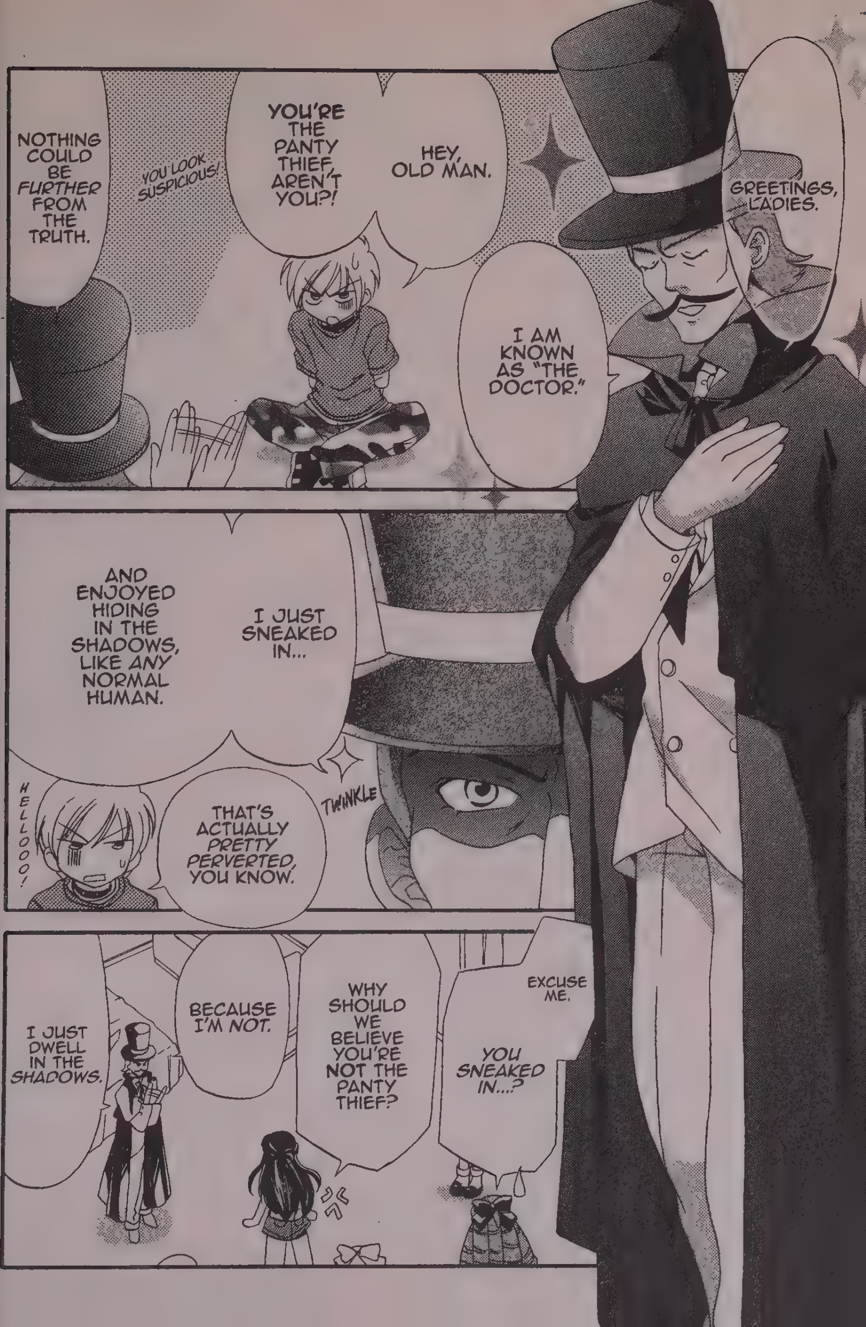

H-HEY!
TIE TIE TIE
JUST WAIT A SEC!
I DIDN'T DO IT!
KEITA... I'M SO ASHAMED.
TO THINK THAT MY DEAR MASTER IS A LOWLY *PANTY THIEF.*
AFTER ALL, KEITA-SAMA IS THE ONLY HUMAN...
WHO COULD SNEAK IN WITHOUT BEING NOTICED.
WHAT KIND OF *LOGIC* IS THAT?!
BUT... KEITA-SAMA WAS WITH US THE WHOLE TIME.
ISN'T IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE?

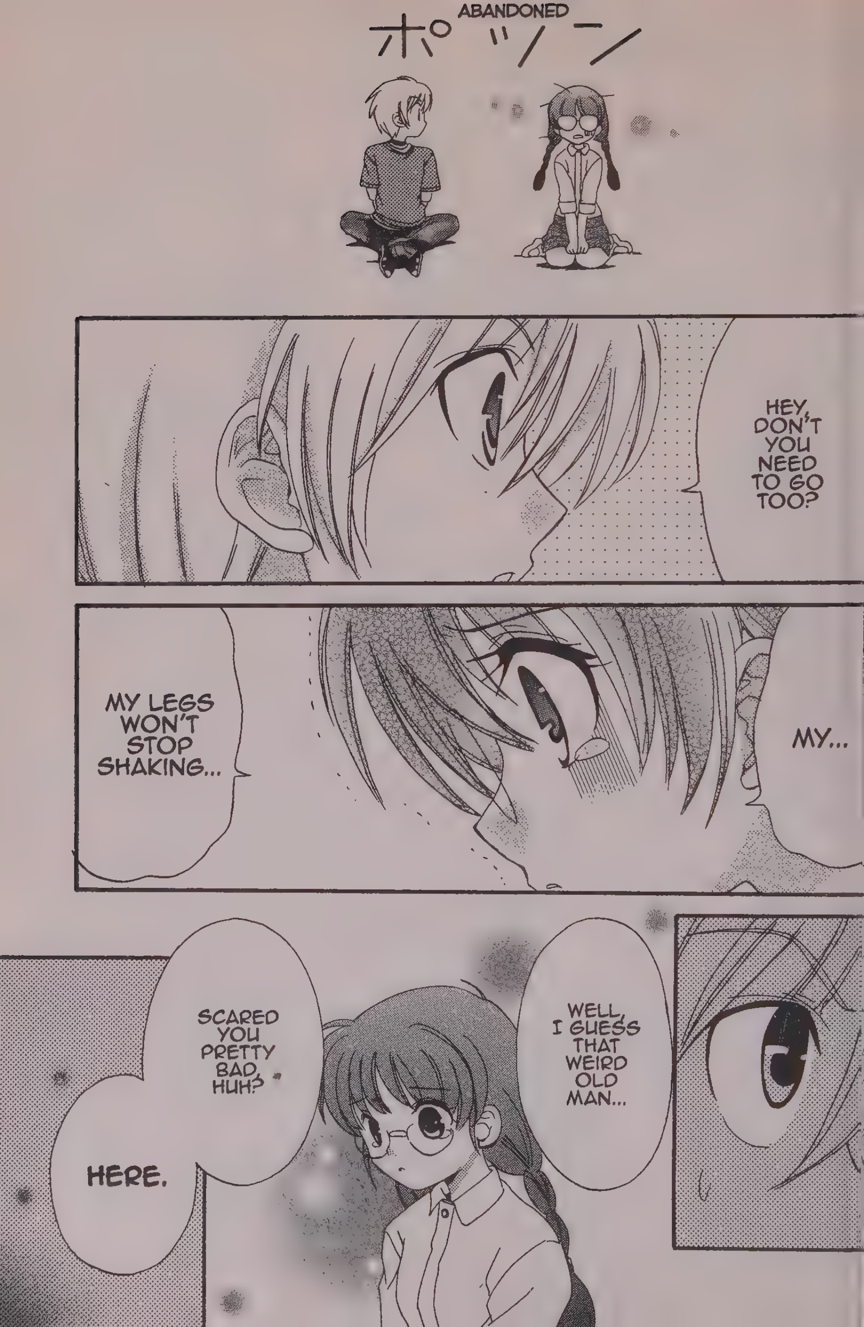

WHAT?!
YOUR PANTIES ARE MISSING?
ALL OF THE PANTIES I HUNG OUT TO DRY THIS MORNING...
ARE GONE.
WHISPER WHISPER WHISPER WHISPER
DON'T TELL ME... THERE'S A PANTY THIEF?!
BUT IT'S STRANGE.
THERE WAS NO SIGN OF ANYONE BREAKING IN.
HMM...
AND IT'S HARD FOR A NORMAL HUMAN TO SLIP IN WITHOUT BEING NOTICED.
STARE
A NORMAL HUMAN, YOU SAY...
HUH?

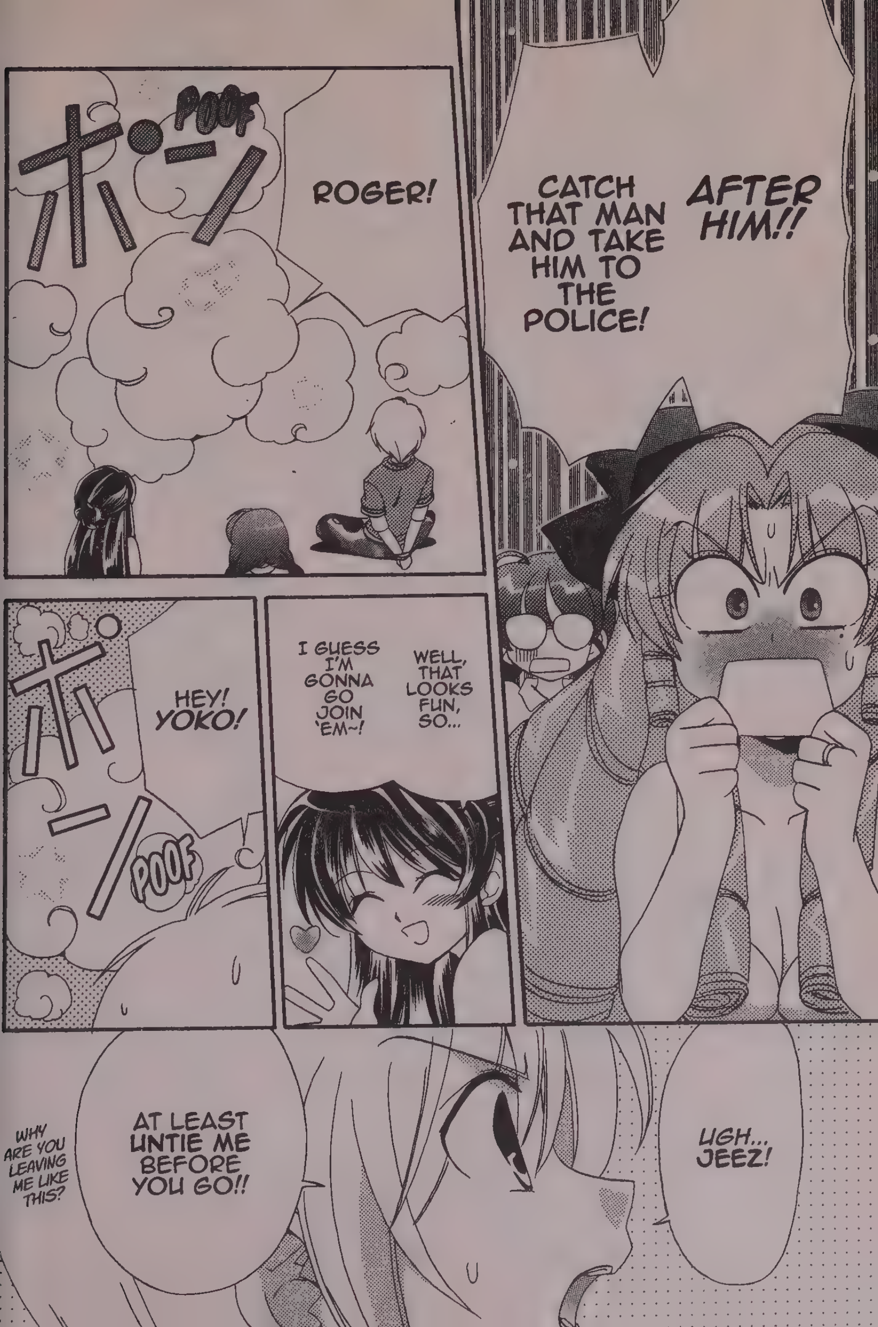

BRAVO! BRA-VO!
CLAP
CLAP
EXCELLENT WORK, MADEMOISELLE.
YOU ARE THE FIRST ONE TO NOTICE ME.
CLAP
CLAP
....
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
POINT
WHOA.
PARDON ME.

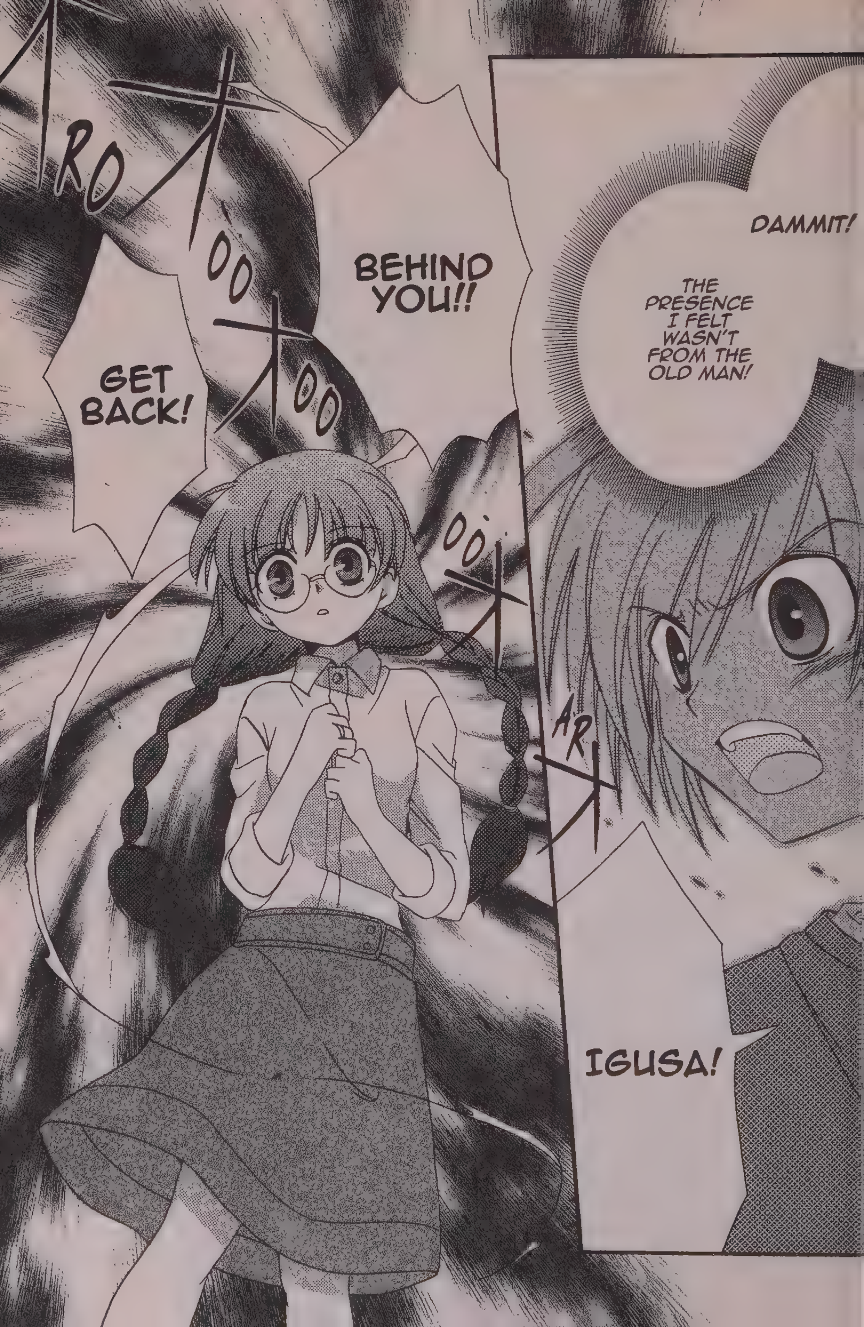

THEN WHO DID IT?
YOU THERE.
HOW MUCH LONGER...
ARE YOU GOING TO SPY ON US?
OUT-STANDING.

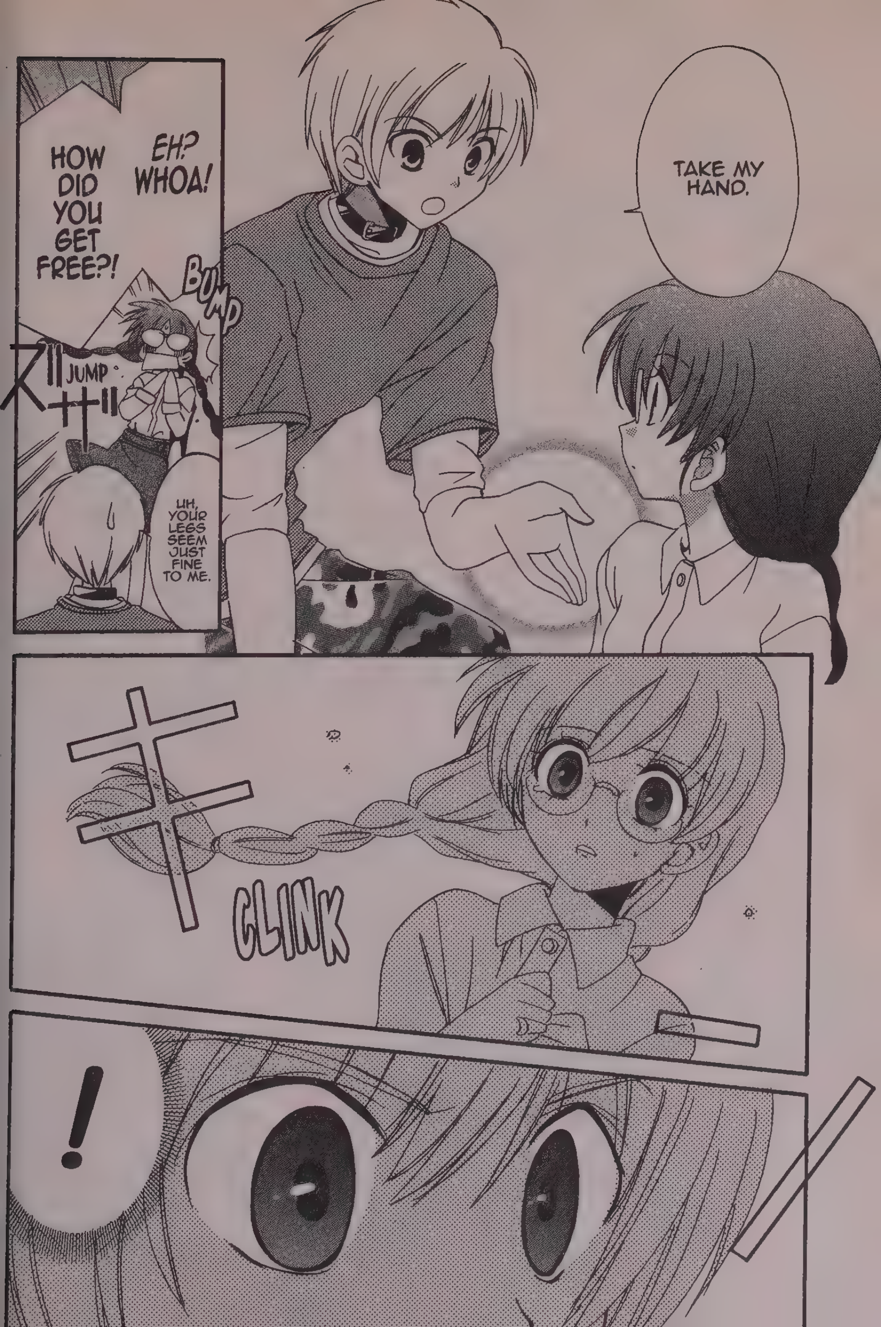

BUT THIS TIME...
I WANTED A THRILL, TOO.
SO, IN ORDER TO GRAB SOME ATTENTION...
I WENT TO MADEMOISELLE'S CLOTHESLINE...
AND ACQUIRED SOME LAUNDRY ITEMS.
ヒ FWIP ラ
SO YOU *ARE* THE PANTY THIEF, OLD MAN!
OH HO HO HO HO!
ADIEU, EVERYONE! UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!
ヒ FLOAT ラ
OH GOSH, *MY PANTIES!*

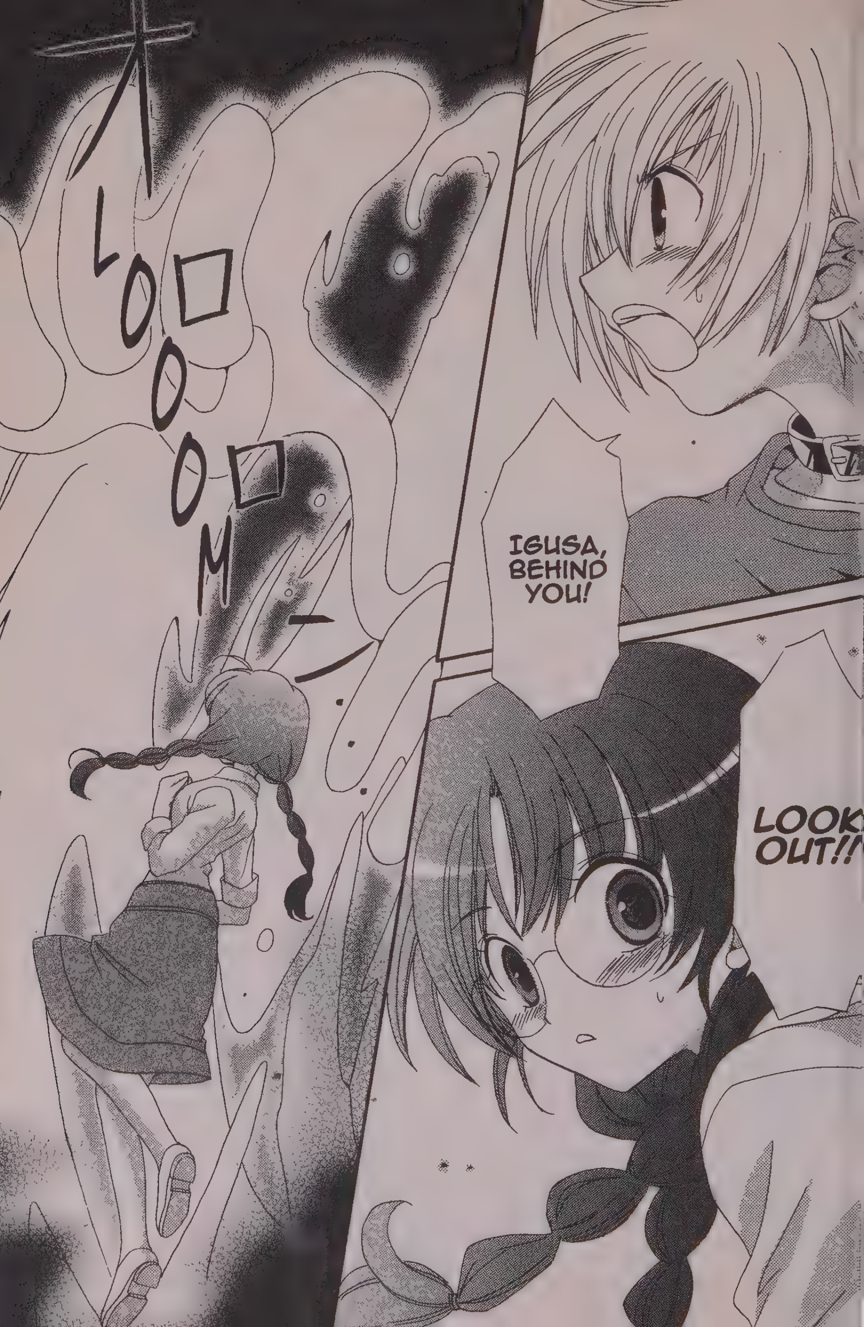

GREETINGS, LADIES.
I AM KNOWN AS "THE DOCTOR."
HEY, OLD MAN.
YOU'RE THE PANTY THIEF, AREN'T YOU?!
YOU LOOK SUSPICIOUS!
NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.
I JUST SNEAKED IN...
AND ENJOYED HIDING IN THE SHADOWS, LIKE *ANY* NORMAL HUMAN.
TWINKLE
THAT'S ACTUALLY *PRETTY PERVERTED*, YOU KNOW.
HELLOOOO!
EXCUSE ME.
YOU SNEAKED IN...?
WHY SHOULD WE BELIEVE YOU'RE NOT THE PANTY THIEF?
BECAUSE I'M *NOT*.
I JUST DWELL IN THE *SHADOWS*.

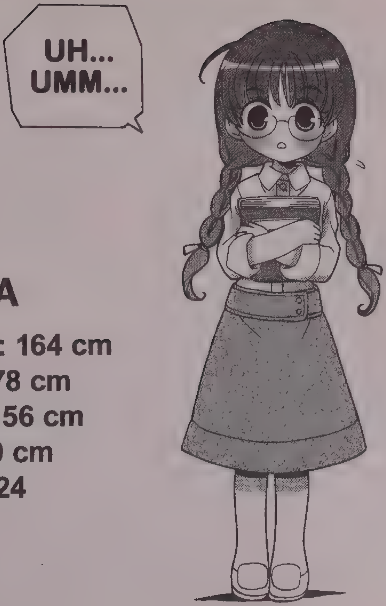

ABANDONED
ポツーン
HEY, DON'T YOU NEED TO GO TOO?
MY...
MY LEGS WON'T STOP SHAKING...
WELL, I GUESS THAT WEIRD OLD MAN...
SCARED YOU PRETTY BAD, HUH?
HERE.


AFTER HIM!!
CATCH THAT MAN AND TAKE HIM TO THE POLICE!
ポーン
POOF
ROGER!
WELL, THAT LOOKS FUN, SO...
I GUESS I'M GONNA GO JOIN 'EM~!
ポーン
POOF
HEY! YOKO!
UGH... JEEZ!
AT LEAST UNTIE ME BEFORE YOU GO!!
WHY ARE YOU LEAVING ME LIKE THIS?


DAMMIT!
THE PRESENCE I FELT WASN'T FROM THE OLD MAN!
BEHIND YOU!!
GET BACK!
ROOOOOO
AR
IGUSA!


TAKE MY HAND.
EH? WHOA!
HOW DID YOU GET FREE?!
BUMP
JUMP
UH, YOUR LEGS SEEM JUST FINE TO ME.
CLINK
!


IGUSA, BEHIND YOU!
LOOK OUT!!
LOOOOM

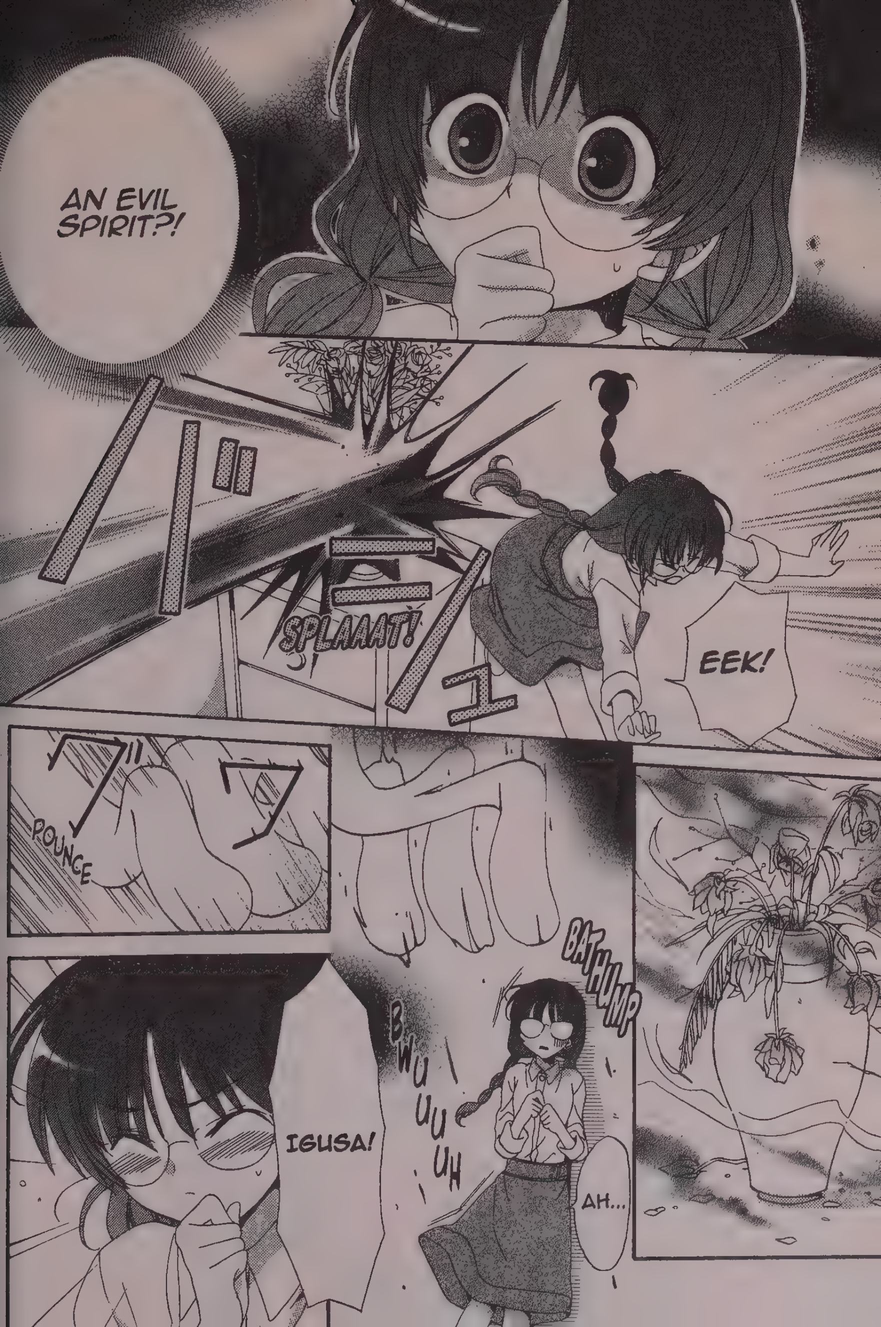


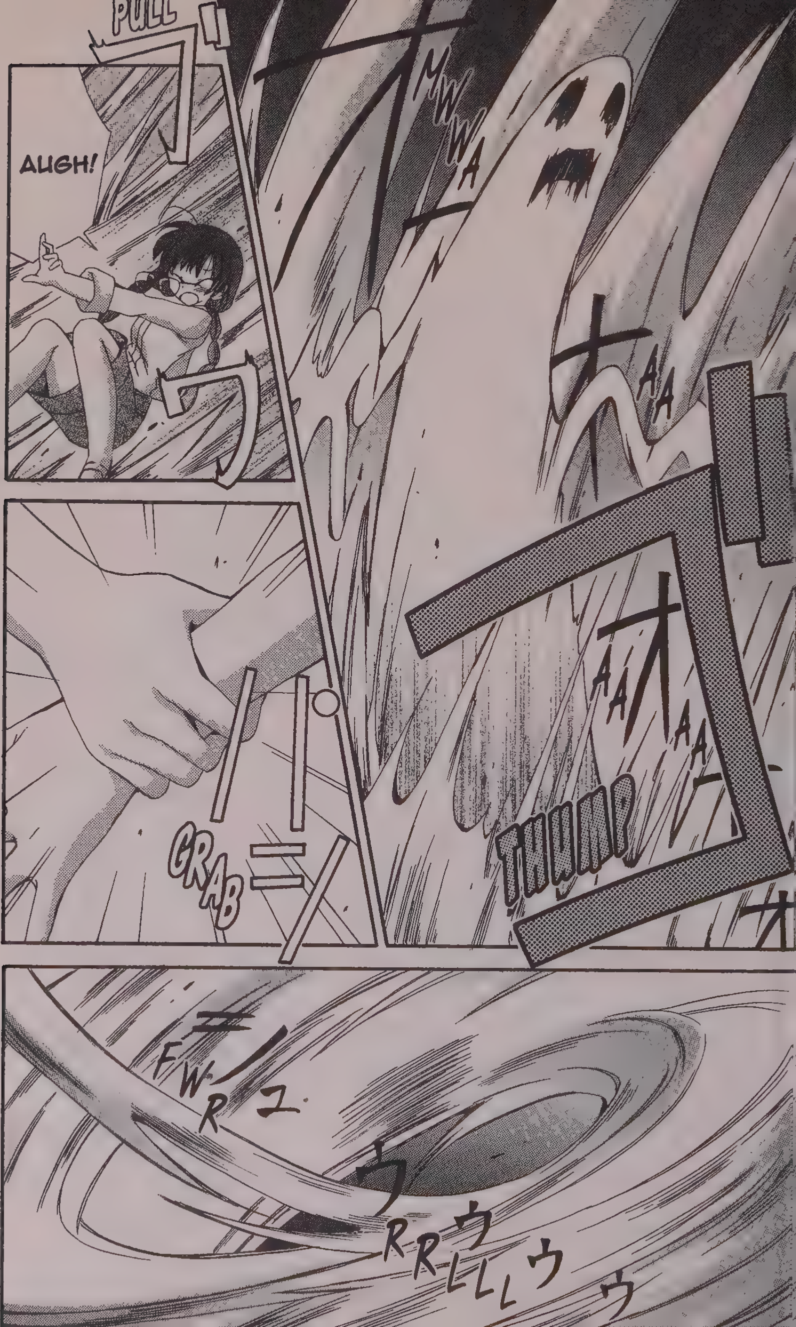
IGUSA

Height: 164 cm
Bust: 78 cm
Waist: 56 cm
Hip: 80 cm
Age: 124

Step.12

Little Red Riding Hoods, Beware! Part 2


AN EVIL SPIRIT?!
EEK!
SPLAAAT!
BATHUMP
BWUUUUH
AH...
IGUSA!
POUNCE


MWWAA
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AAAA
THUMP
オ
PULL
AUGH!
GRAB
FWR
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RRLLL
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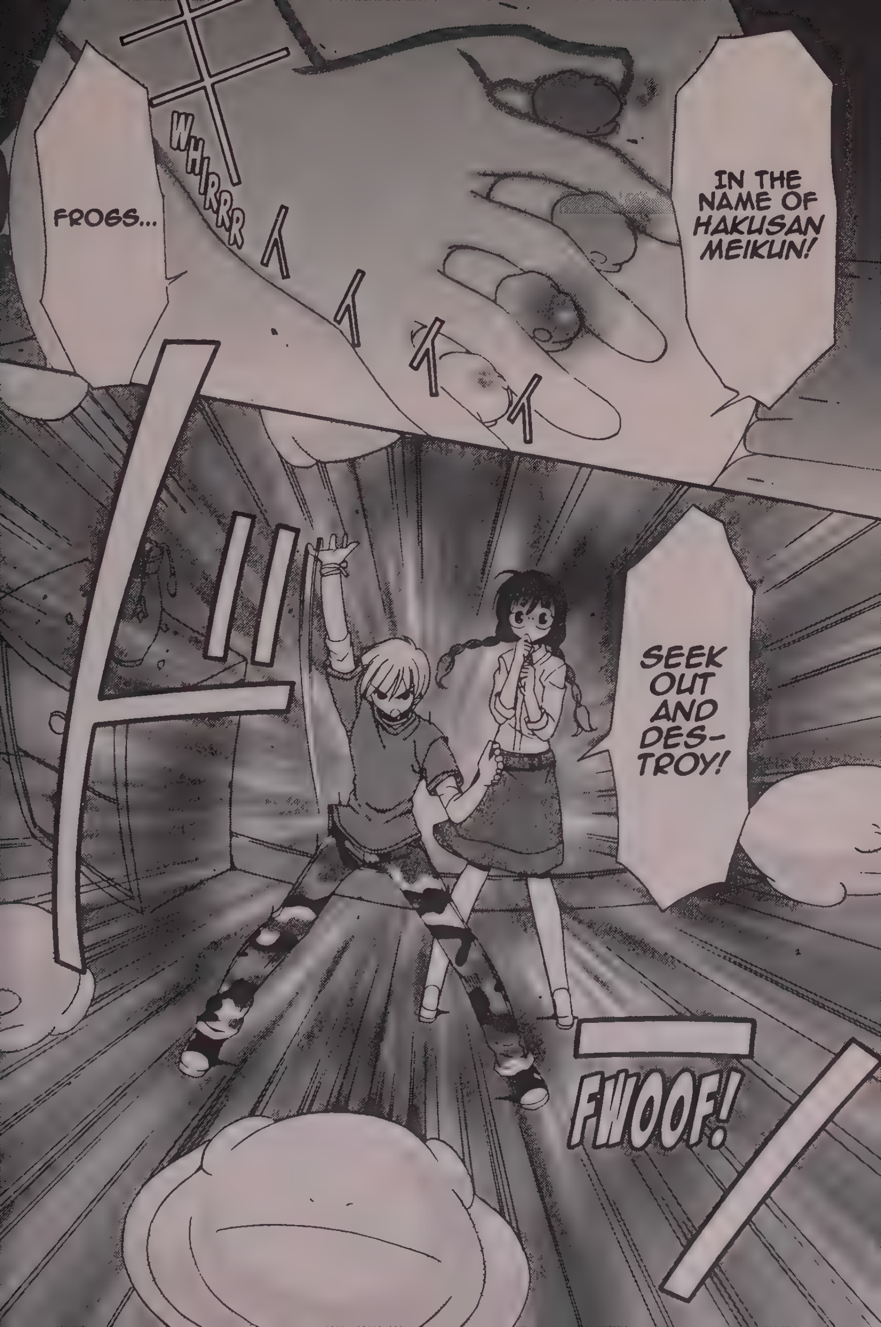
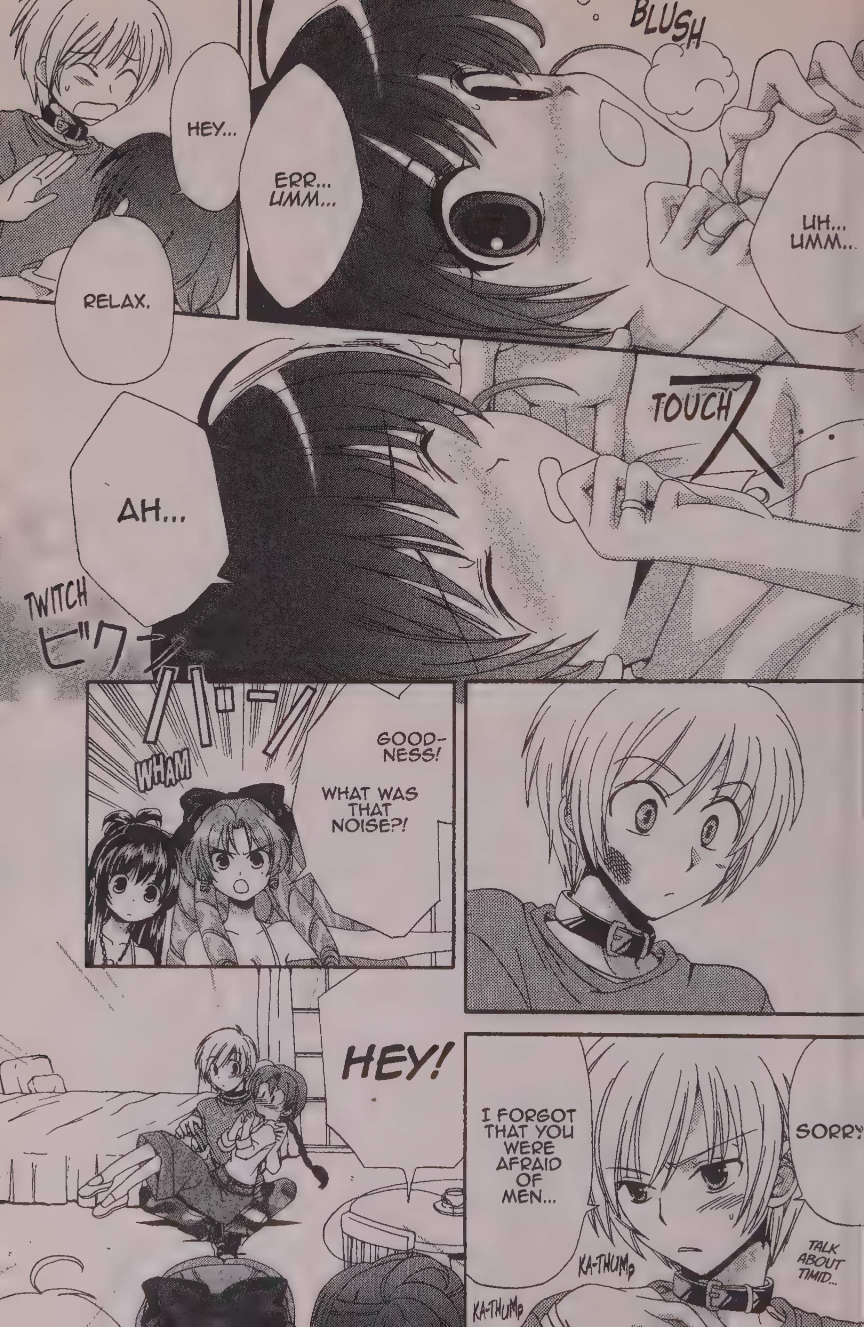
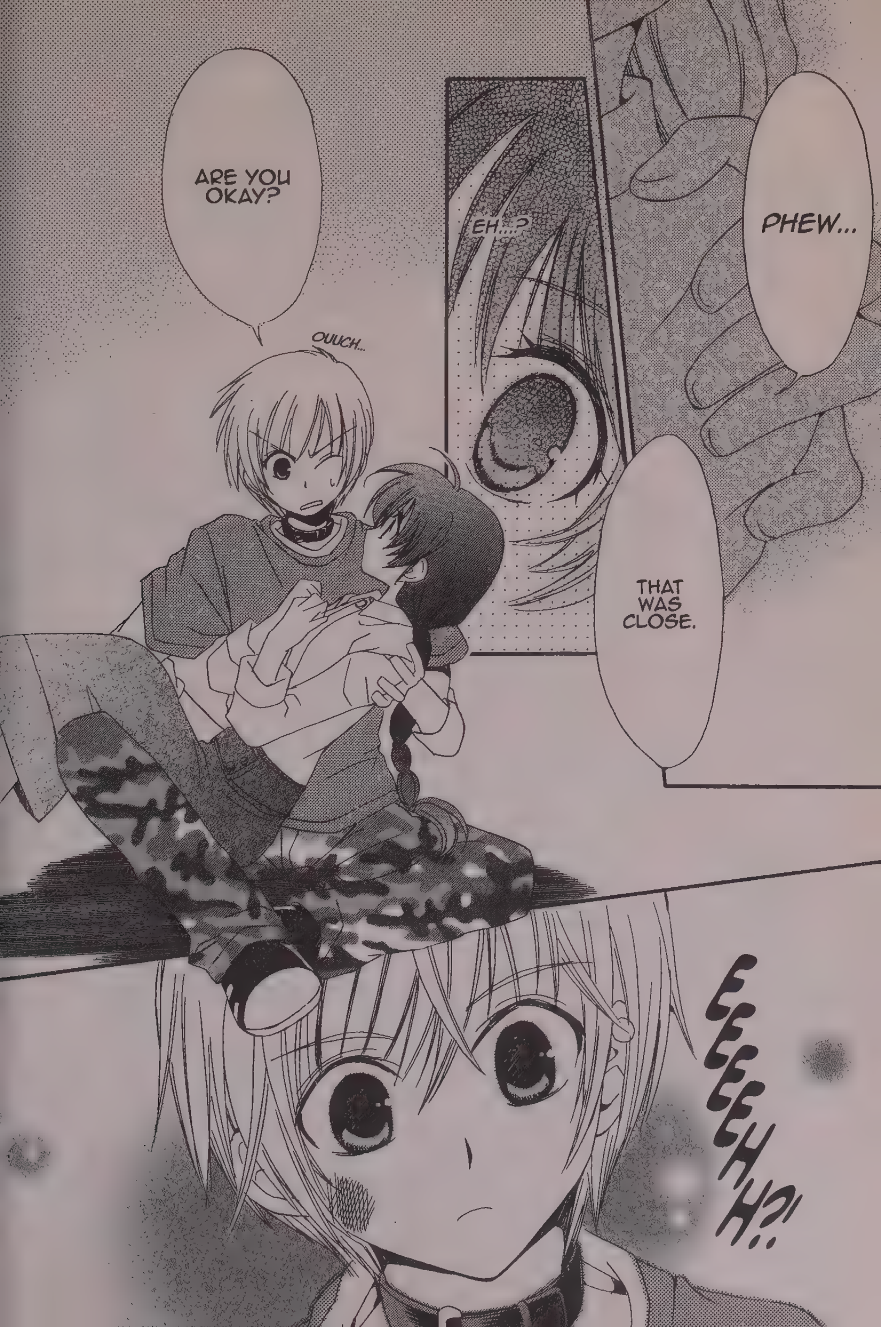
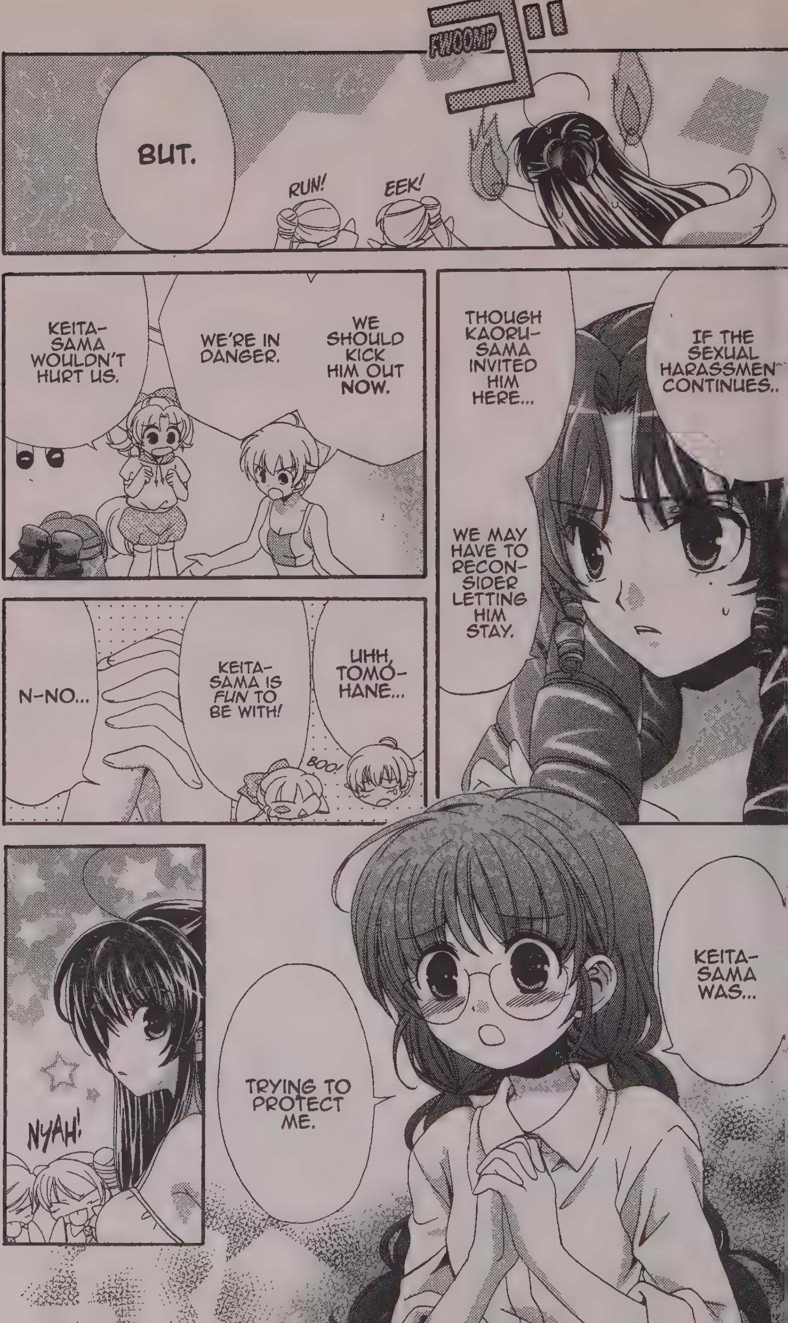
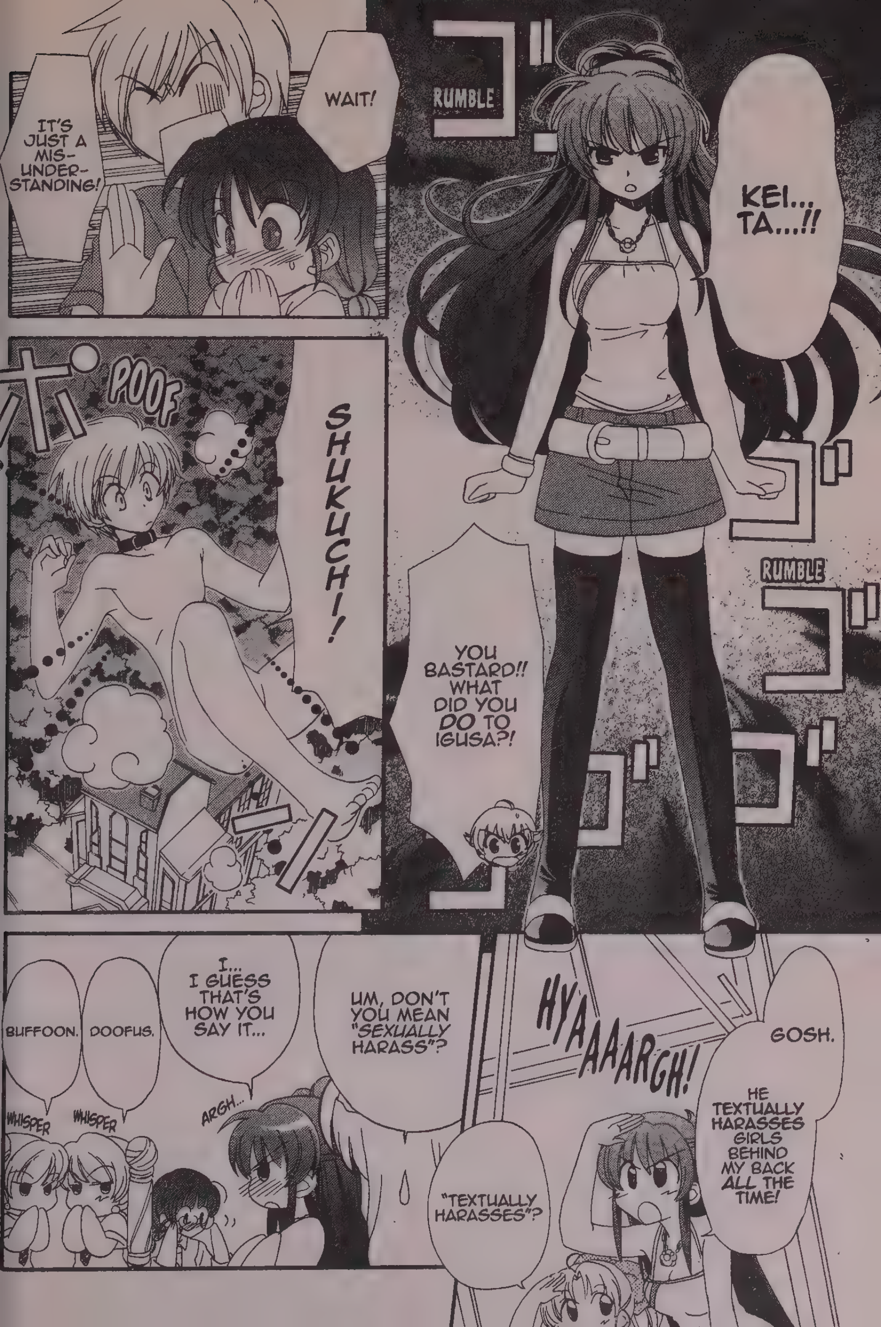
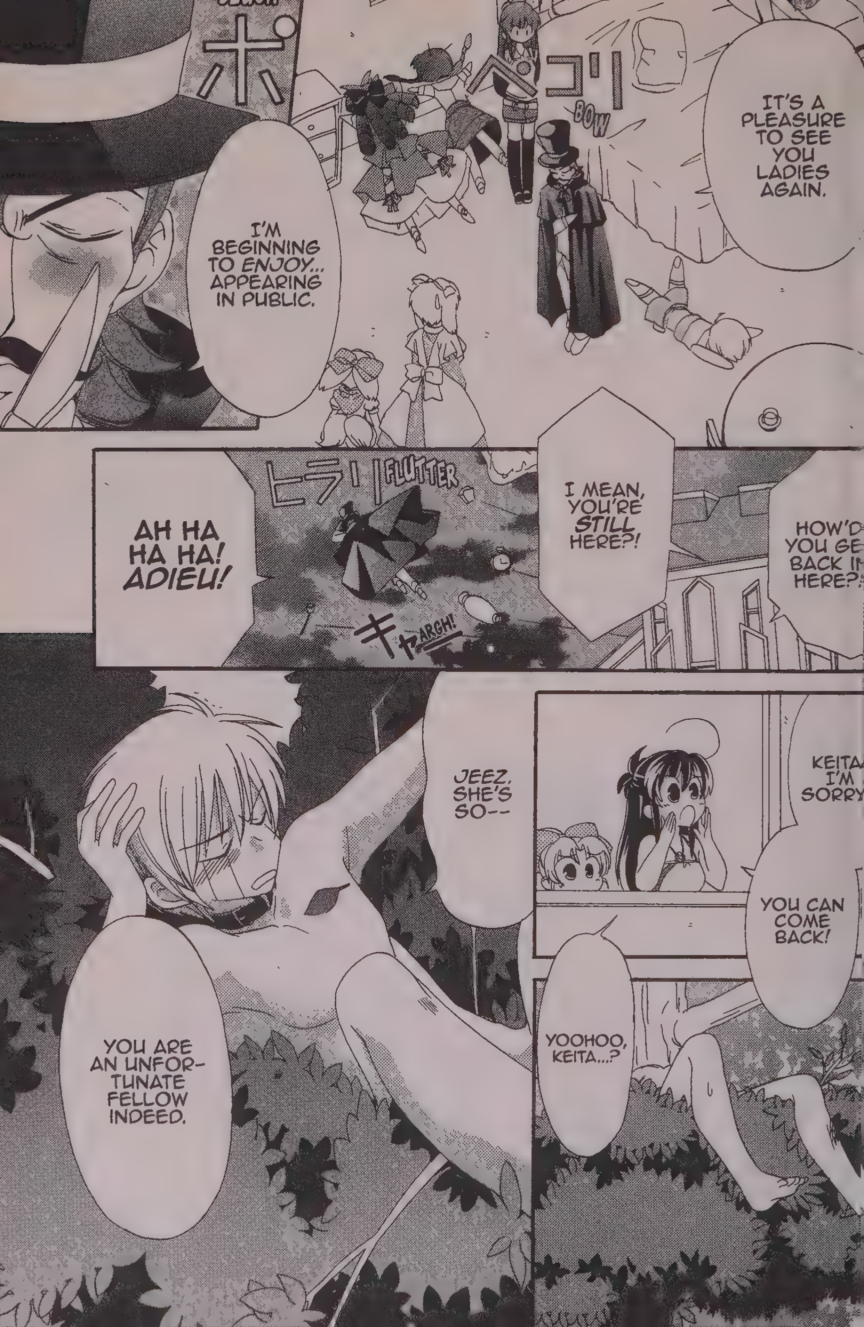

IN THE NAME OF HAKUSAN MEIKUN!
WHIRRR
FROGS...
SEEK OUT AND DESTROY!
FWOOF!

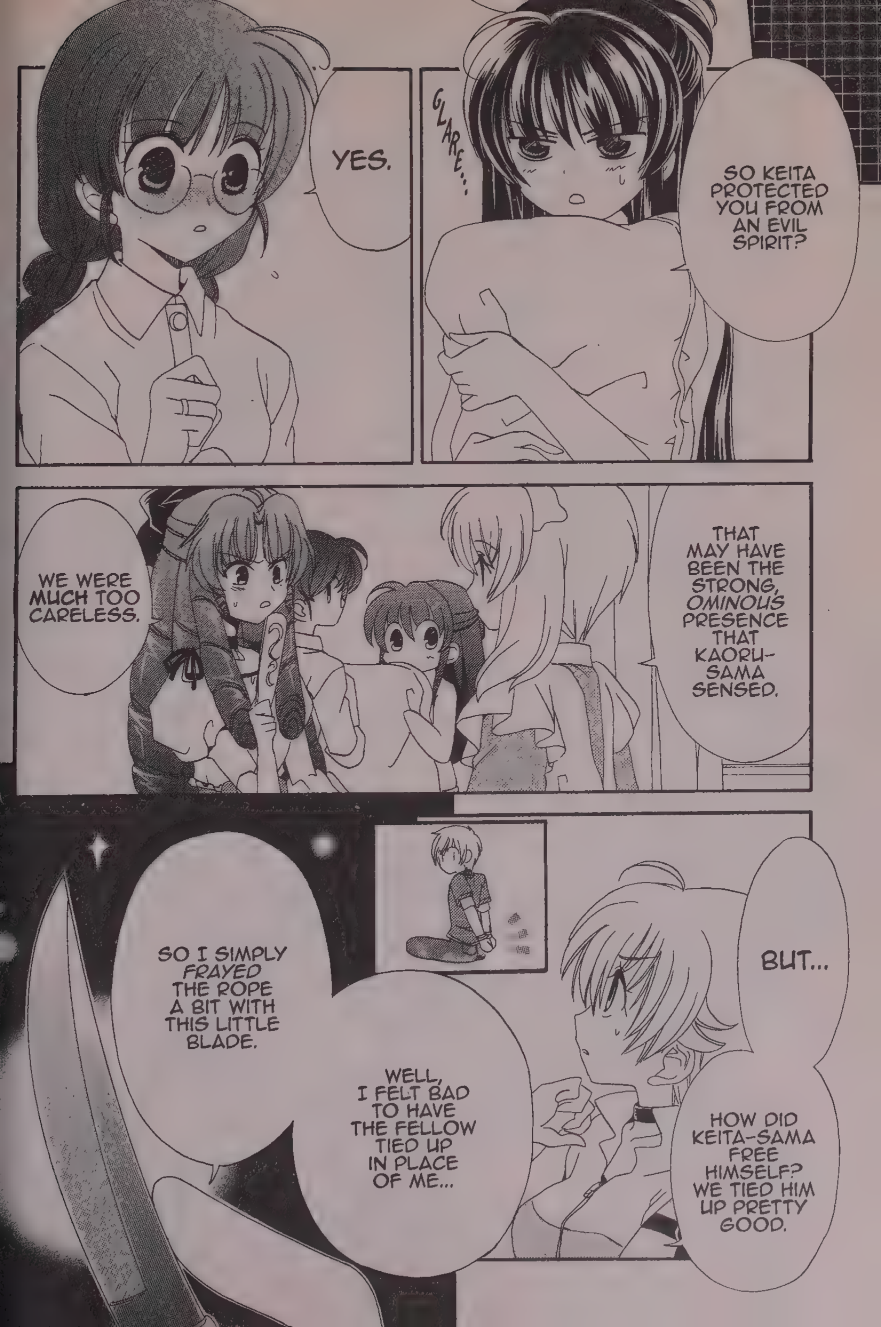

BLUSH
UH... UMM...
ERR... UMM...
HEY...
RELAX.
TOUCH
AH...
TWITCH
ビクッ
WHAM
GOODNESS!
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?!
SORRY
I FORGOT THAT YOU WERE AFRAID OF MEN...
TALK ABOUT TIMID...
KA-THUMP
KA-THUMP
HEY!

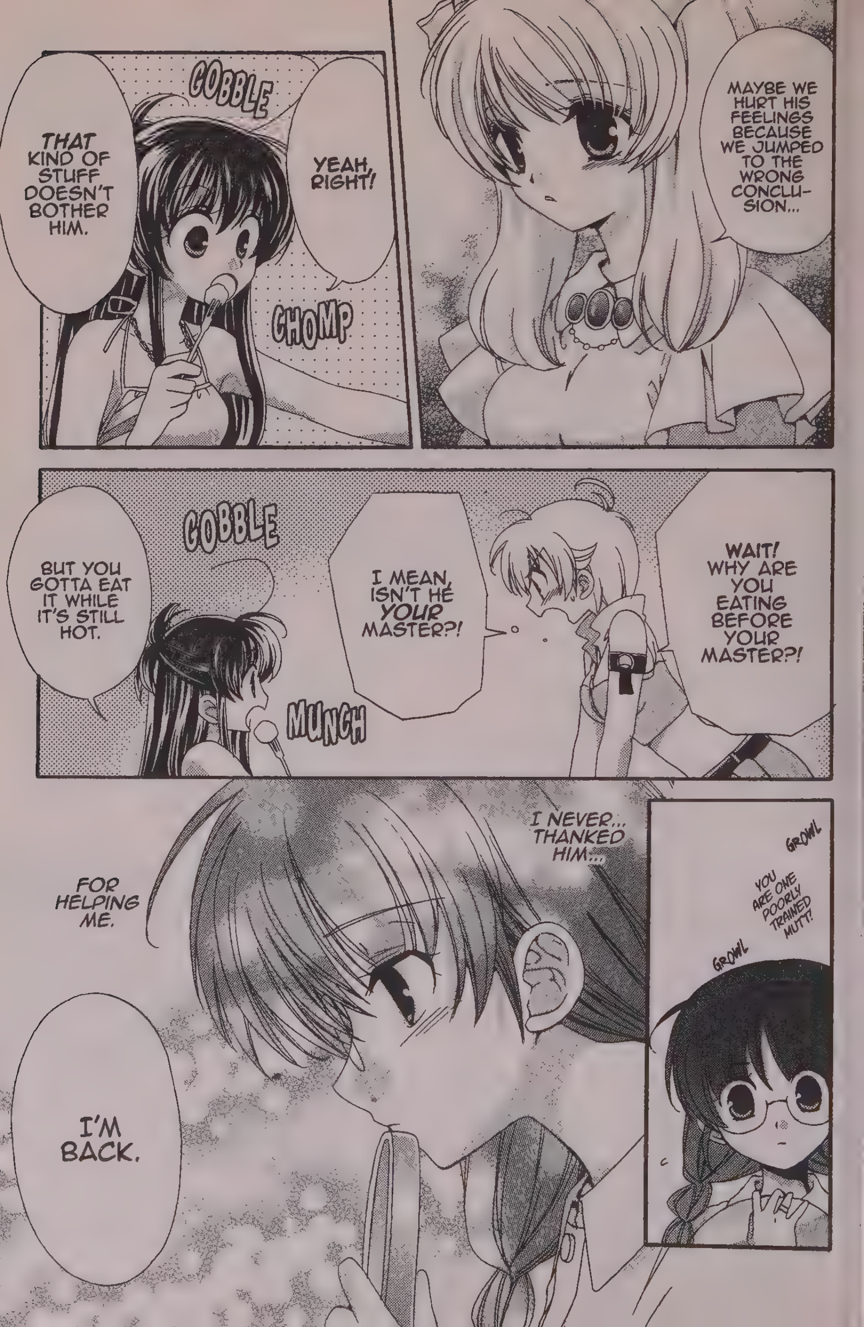

PHEW...
THAT WAS CLOSE.
EH...?
ARE YOU OKAY?
OUUCH..
EEEEHH?!

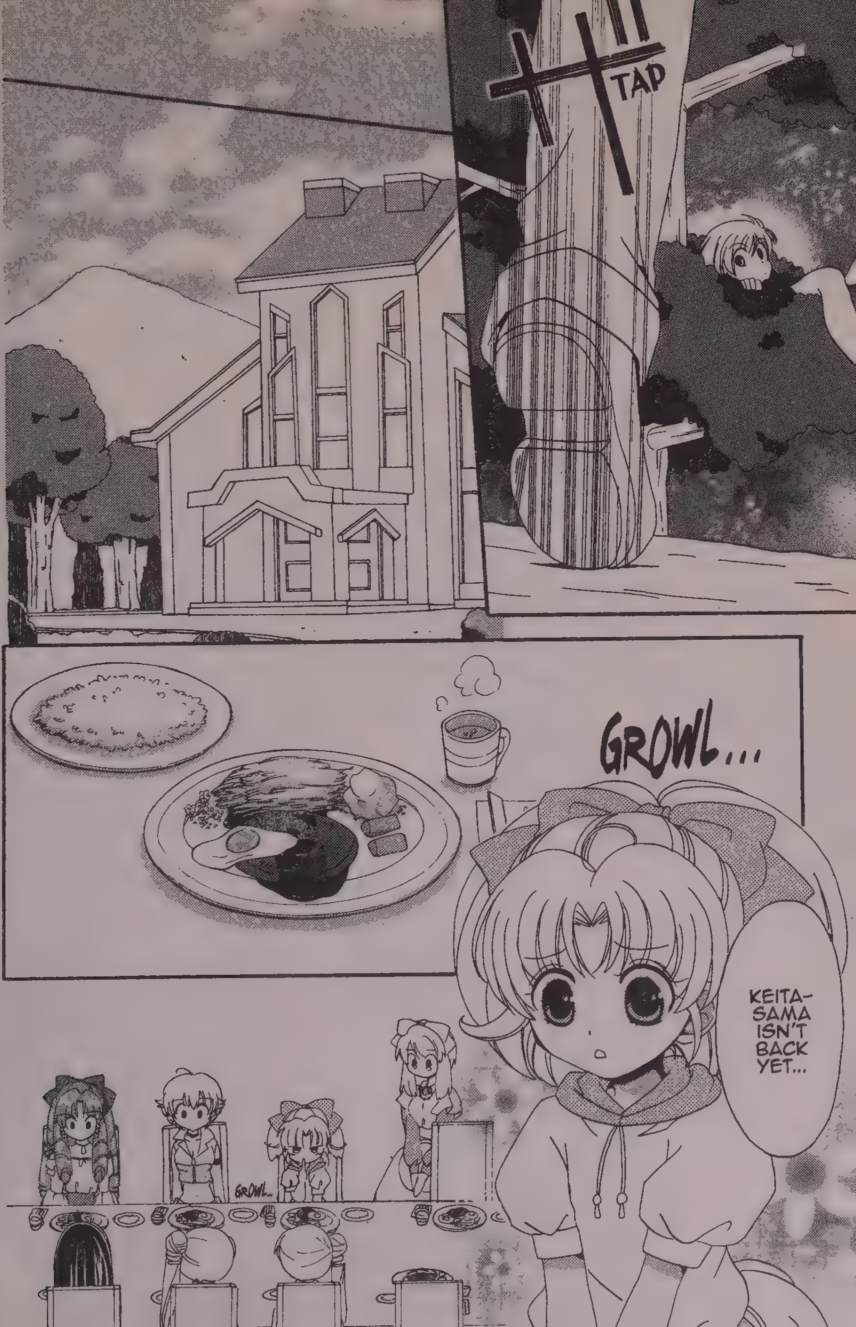

FWOOMP
EEK!
RUN!
BUT.
IF THE SEXUAL HARASSMEN CONTINUES..
THOUGH KAORU-SAMA INVITED HIM HERE...
WE MAY HAVE TO RECONSIDER LETTING HIM STAY.
WE SHOULD KICK HIM OUT NOW.
WE'RE IN DANGER.
KEITA-SAMA WOULDN'T HURT US.
UHH, TOMOHANE...
BOO!
KEITA-SAMA IS *FUN* TO BE WITH!
N-NO...
KEITA-SAMA WAS...
TRYING TO PROTECT ME.
NYAH!

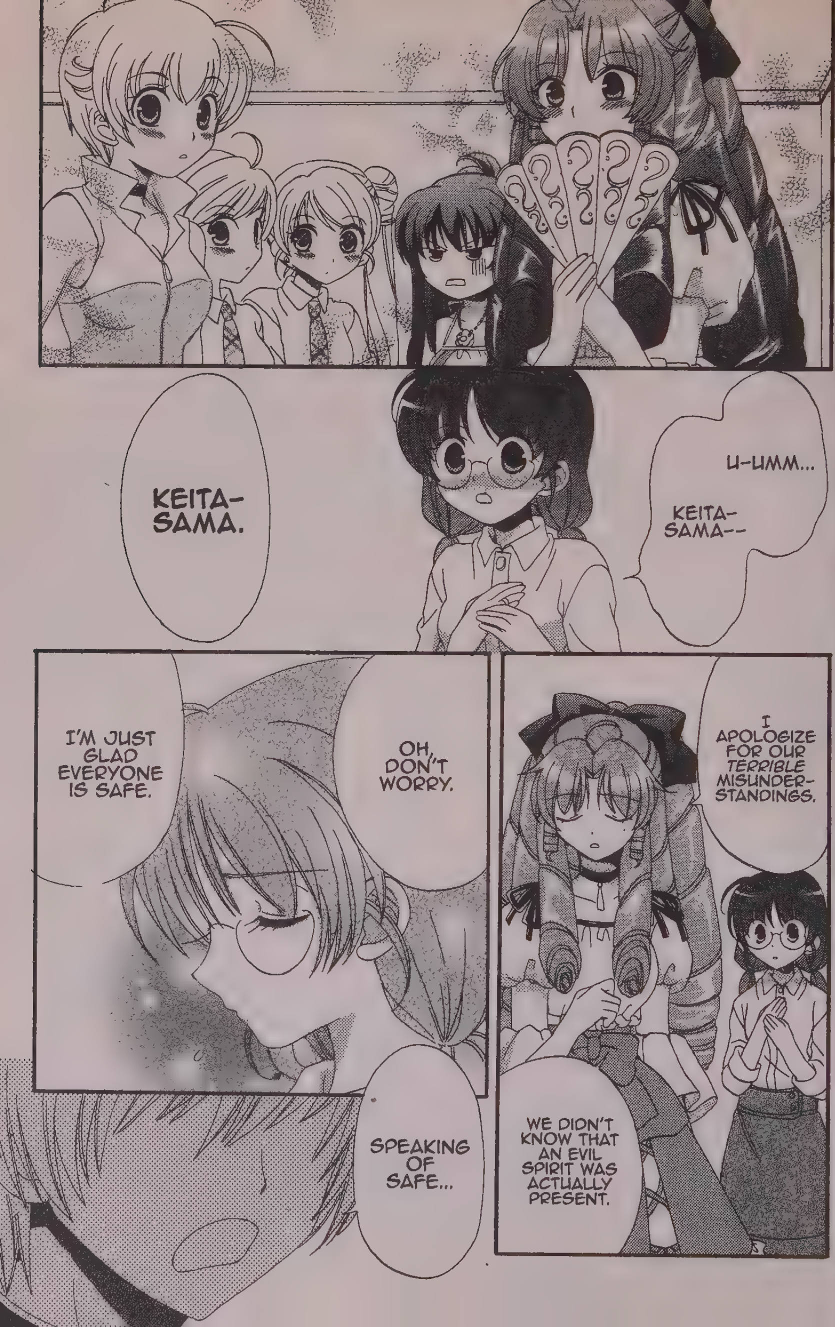

RUMBLE
KEI... TA...!!
RUMBLE
YOU BASTARD!! WHAT DID YOU *DO* TO IGUSA?!
WAIT!
IT'S JUST A MIS-UNDER-STANDING!
SHUKUCHI!
POOF
HYAAAARGH!
GOSH.
HE TEXTUALLY HARASSES GIRLS BEHIND MY BACK *ALL* THE TIME!
"TEXTUALLY HARASSES"?
UM, DON'T YOU MEAN "*SEXUALLY* HARASS"?
ARGH...
I... I GUESS THAT'S HOW YOU SAY IT...
DOOFUS.
BUFFOON.
WHISPER
WHISPER

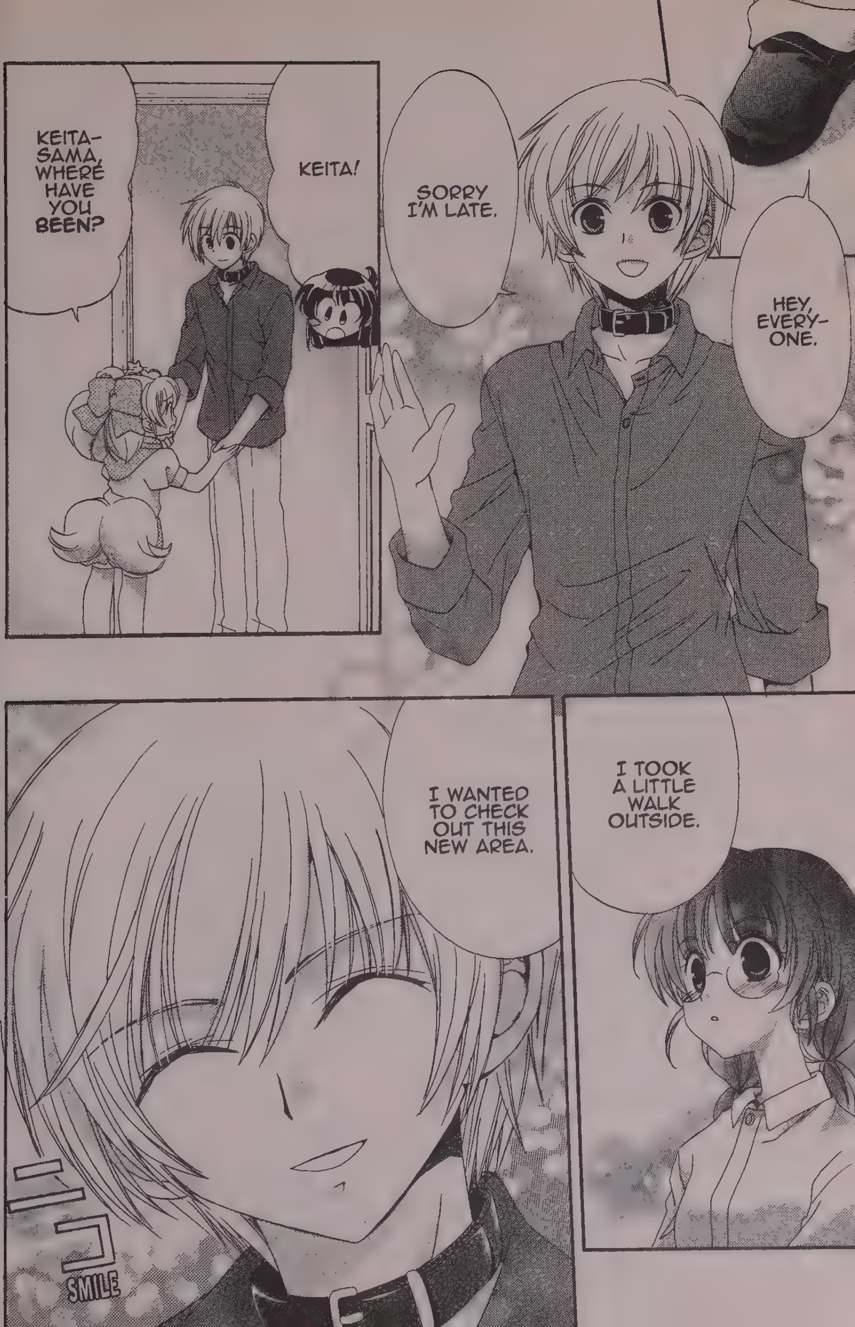

ペコリ
BOW
IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU LADIES AGAIN.
ポ
I'M BEGINNING TO ENJOY... APPEARING IN PUBLIC.
HOW'D YOU GE BACK IN HERE?!
I MEAN, YOU'RE STILL HERE?!
ヒラー
FLUTTER
AH HA HA HA! ADIEU!
キャ
ARGH!
KEITA I'M SORRY
YOU CAN COME BACK!
YOOHOO, KEITA...?
JEEZ, SHE'S SO--
YOU ARE AN UNFORTUNATE FELLOW INDEED.

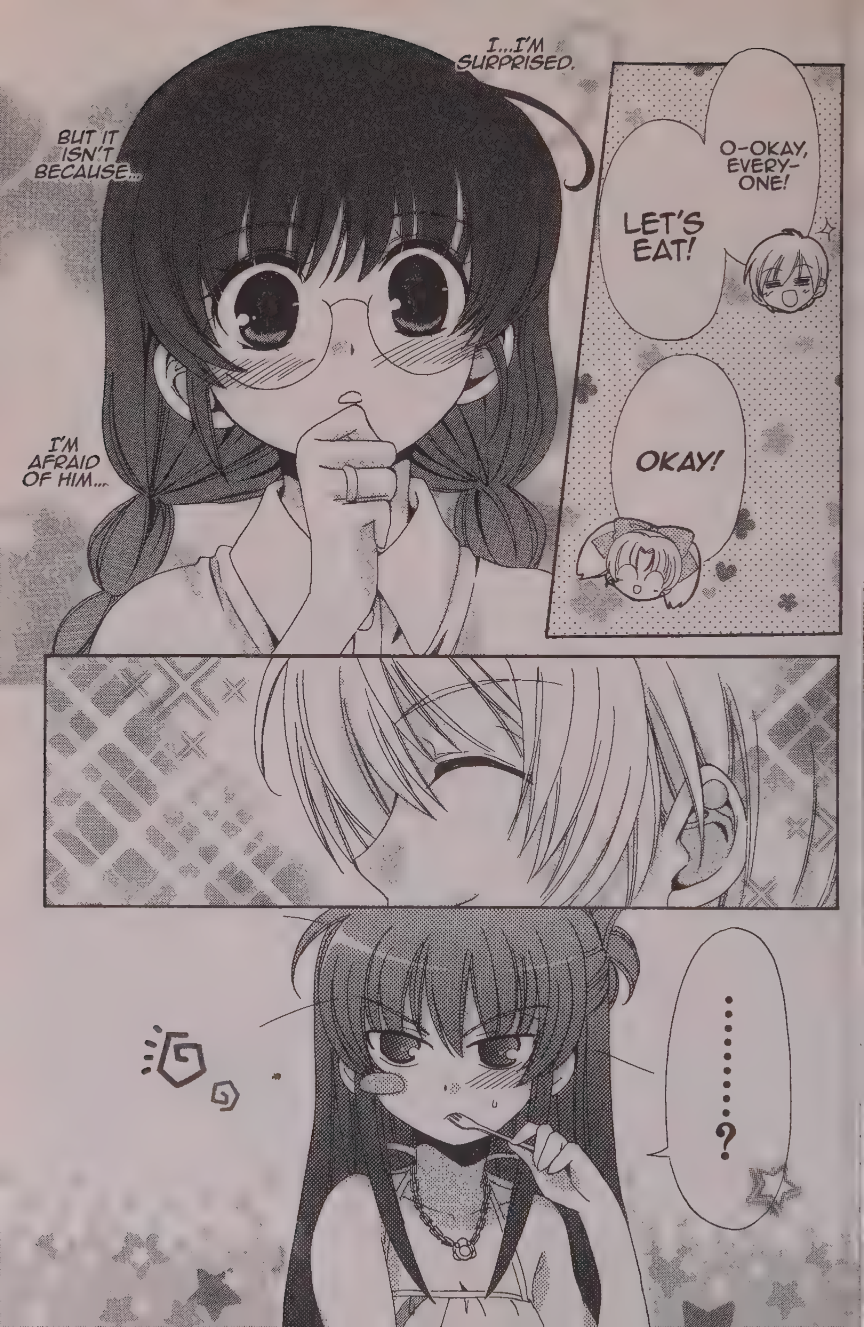

GLARE...
SO KEITA PROTECTED YOU FROM AN EVIL SPIRIT?
YES.
THAT MAY HAVE BEEN THE STRONG, *OMINOUS* PRESENCE THAT KAORU-SAMA SENSED.
WE WERE **MUCH** TOO CARELESS.
BUT...
HOW DID KEITA-SAMA FREE HIMSELF? WE TIED HIM UP PRETTY GOOD.
WELL, I FELT BAD TO HAVE THE FELLOW TIED UP IN PLACE OF ME...
SO I SIMPLY *FRAYED* THE ROPE A BIT WITH THIS LITTLE BLADE.

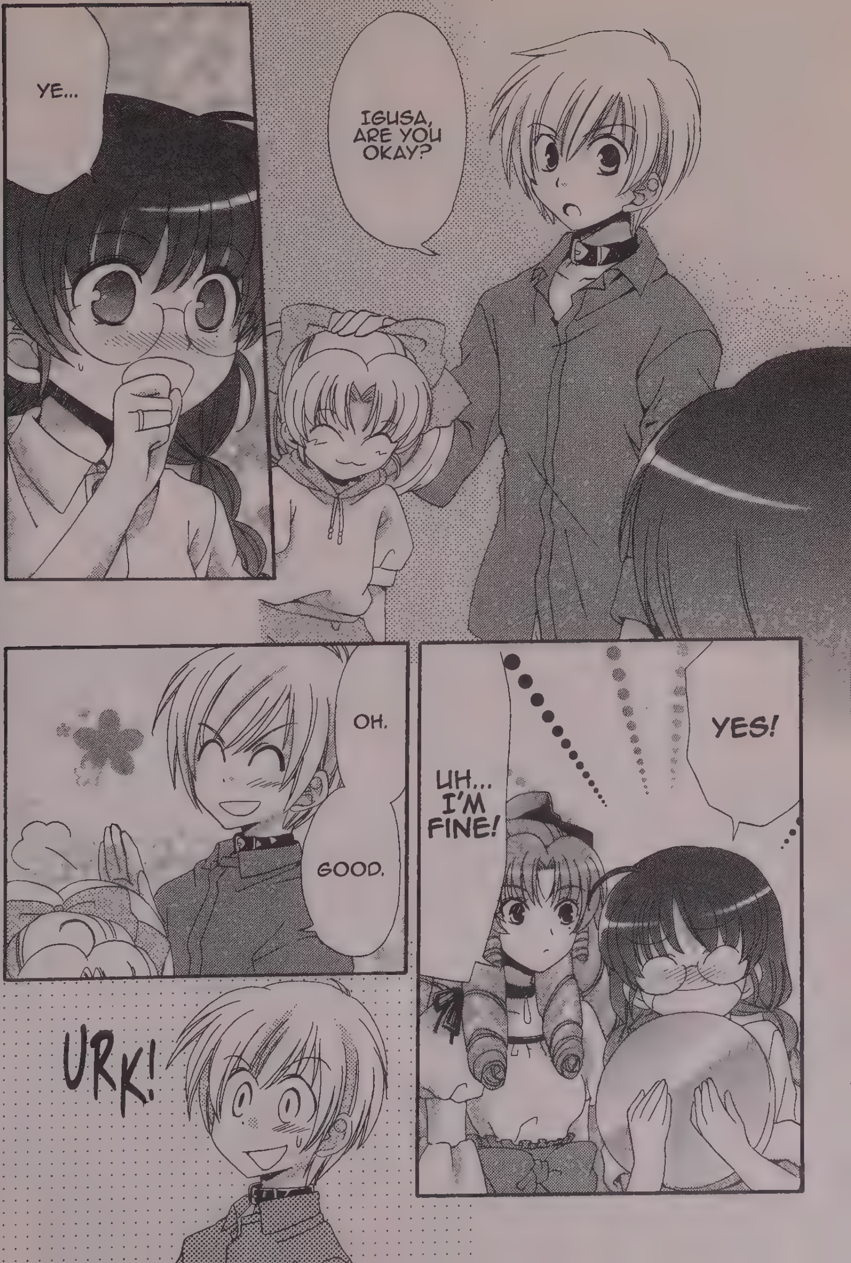

MAYBE WE HURT HIS FEELINGS BECAUSE WE JUMPED TO THE WRONG CONCLUSION...
YEAH, RIGHT!
GOBBLE
THAT KIND OF STUFF DOESN'T BOTHER HIM.
CHOMP
WAIT! WHY ARE YOU EATING BEFORE YOUR MASTER?!
I MEAN, ISN'T HE YOUR MASTER?!
GOBBLE
BUT YOU GOTTA EAT IT WHILE IT'S STILL HOT.
MUNCH
GROWL
YOU ARE ONE POORLY TRAINED MUTT!
GROWL
I NEVER... THANKED HIM...
FOR HELPING ME.
I'M BACK.

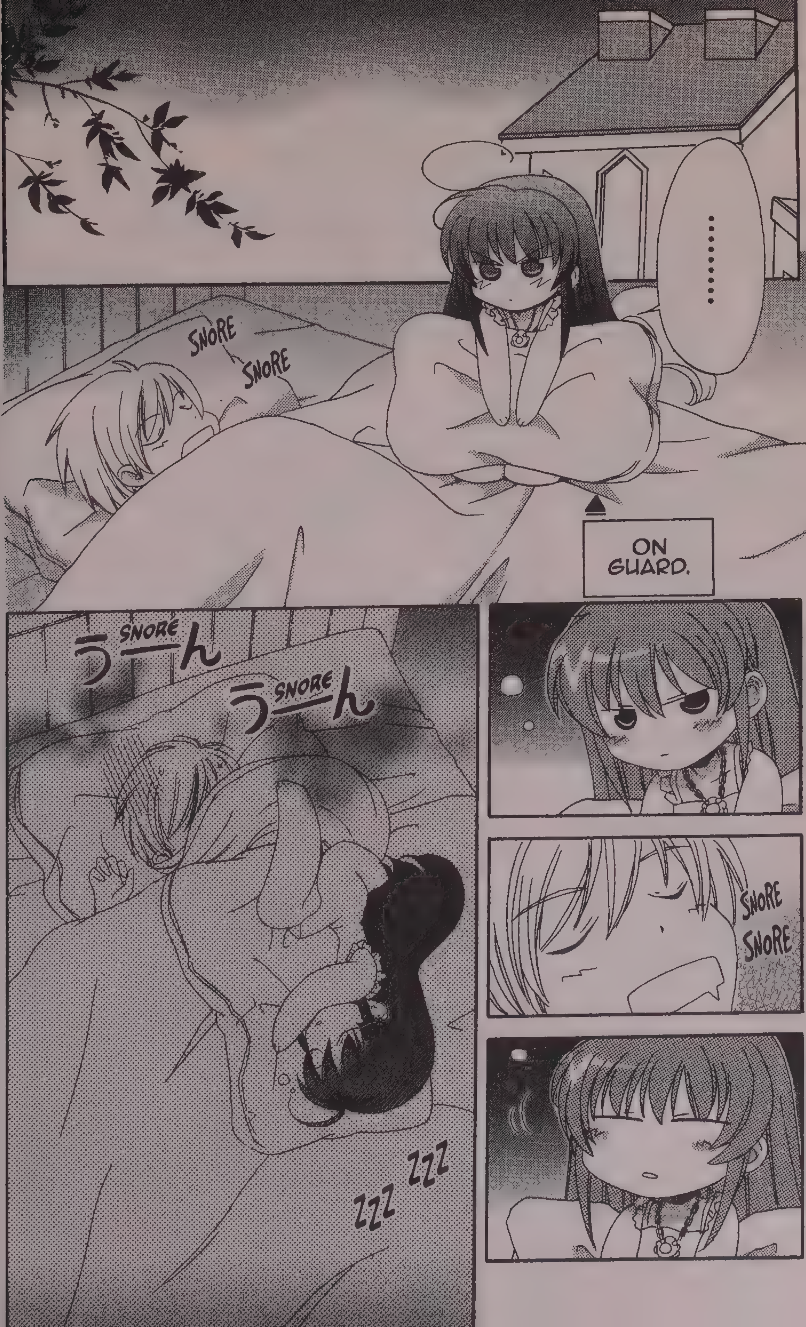

TAP
GROWL...
KEITA-SAMA ISN'T BACK YET...
GROWL...

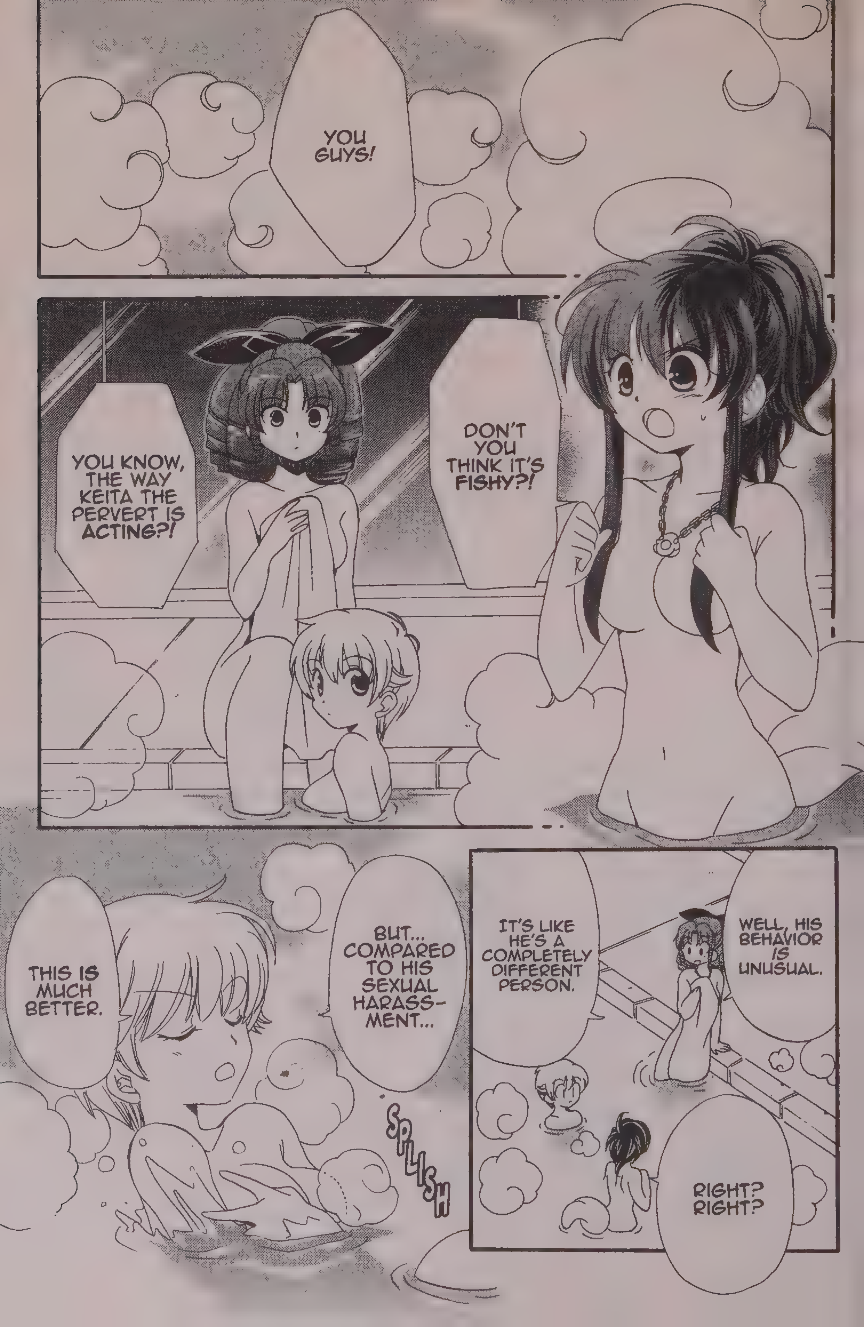

U-UMM... KEITA-SAMA--
KEITA-SAMA.
I APOLOGIZE FOR OUR TERRIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS.
WE DIDN'T KNOW THAT AN EVIL SPIRIT WAS ACTUALLY PRESENT.
OH, DON'T WORRY.
I'M JUST GLAD EVERYONE IS SAFE.
SPEAKING OF SAFE...

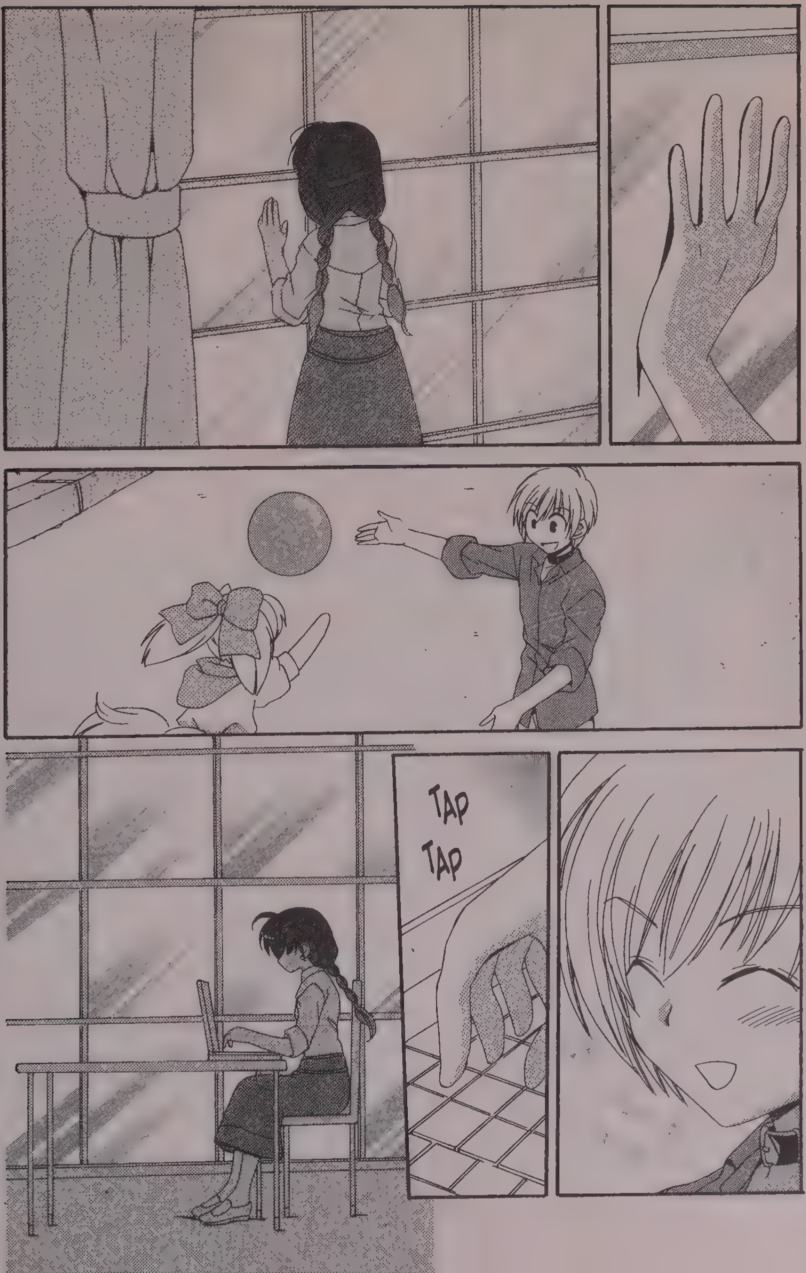

HEY, EVERYONE.
SORRY I'M LATE.
KEITA!
KEITA-SAMA, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I TOOK A LITTLE WALK OUTSIDE.
I WANTED TO CHECK OUT THIS NEW AREA.
SMILE

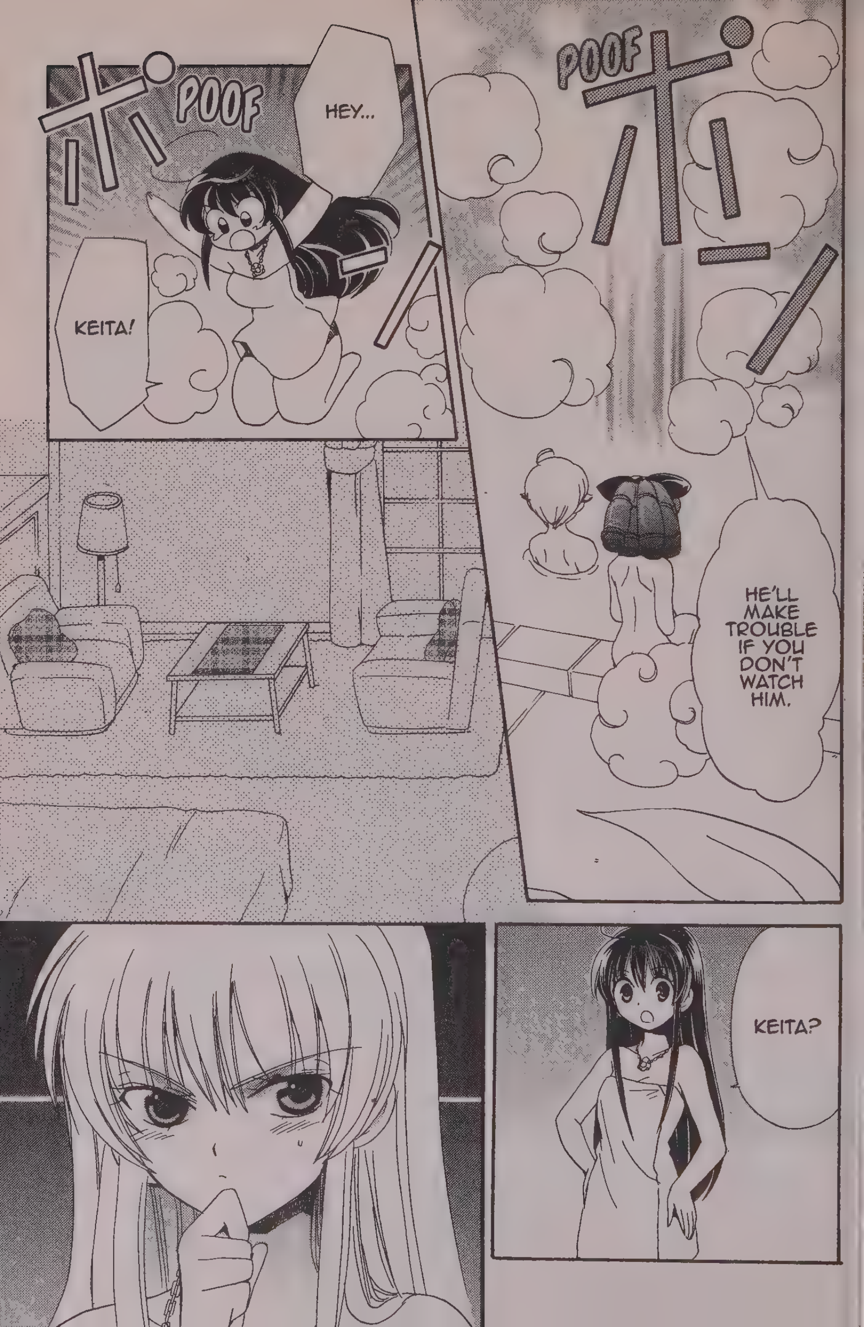

O-OKAY, EVERYONE!
LET'S EAT!
OKAY!
I...I'M SURPRISED.
BUT IT ISN'T BECAUSE...
I'M AFRAID OF HIM...
......?

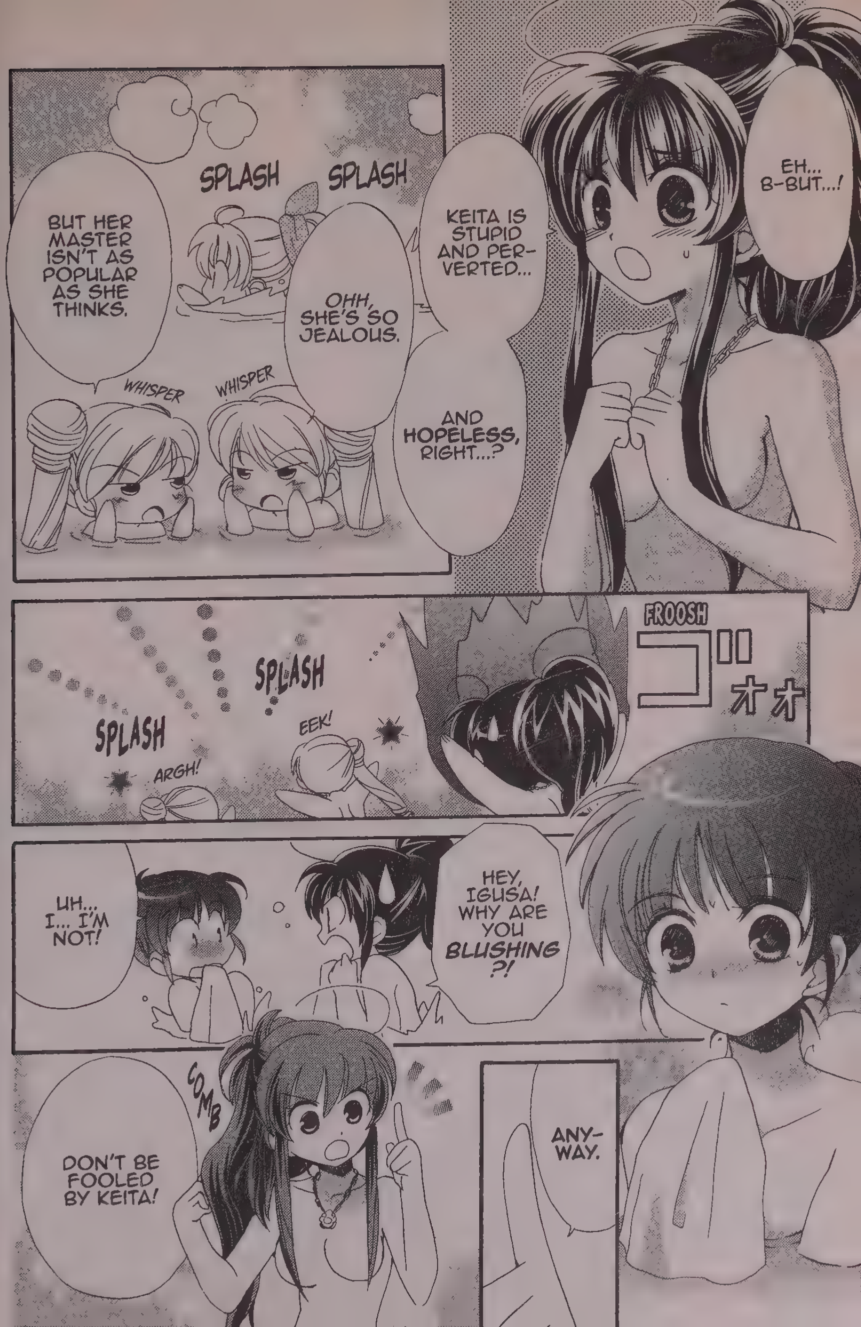

IGUSA, ARE YOU OKAY?
YE...
YES!
UH... I'M FINE!
OH.
GOOD.
URK!

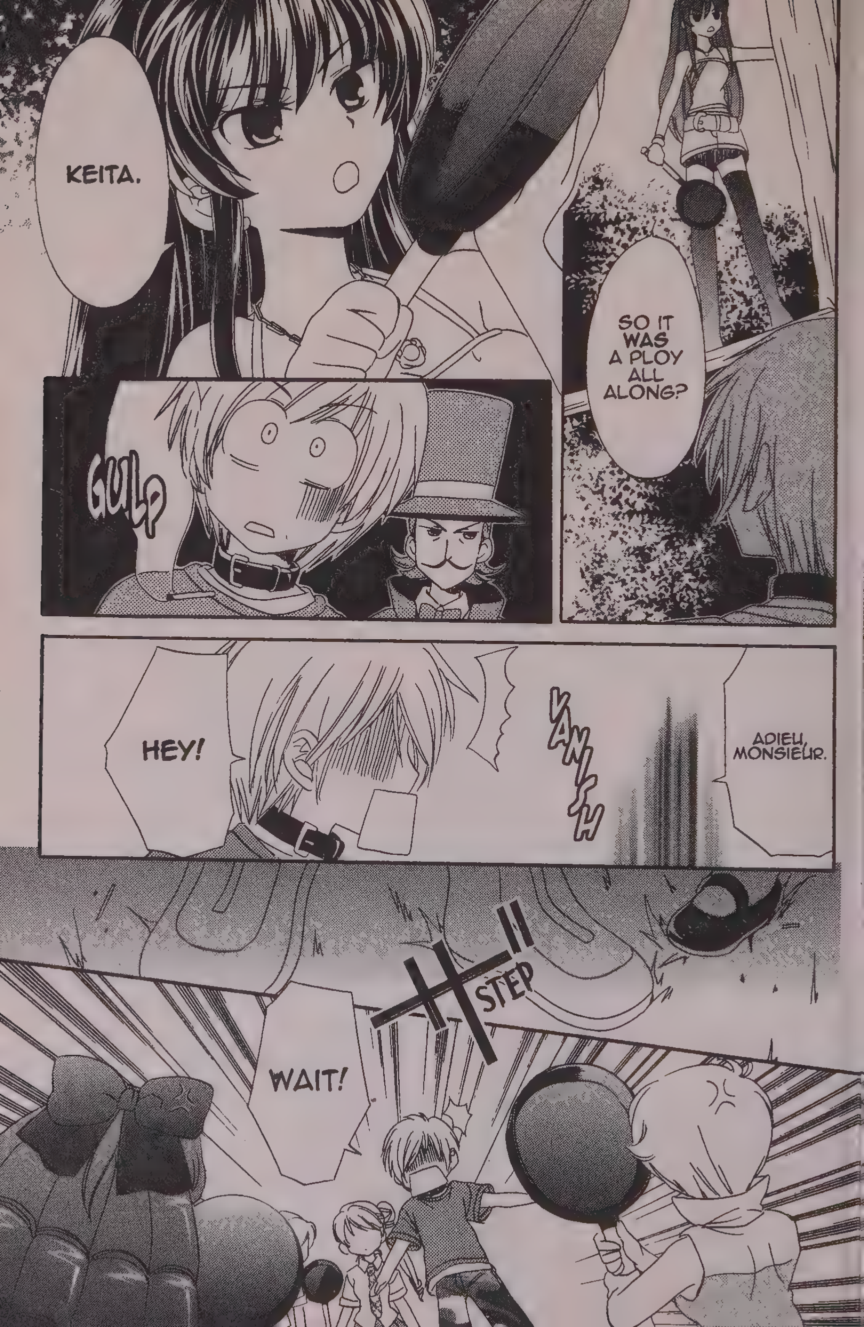

……
SNORE SNORE
ON GUARD.
SNORE SNORE
うSNOREーん
うSNOREーん
ZZZ
ZZZ

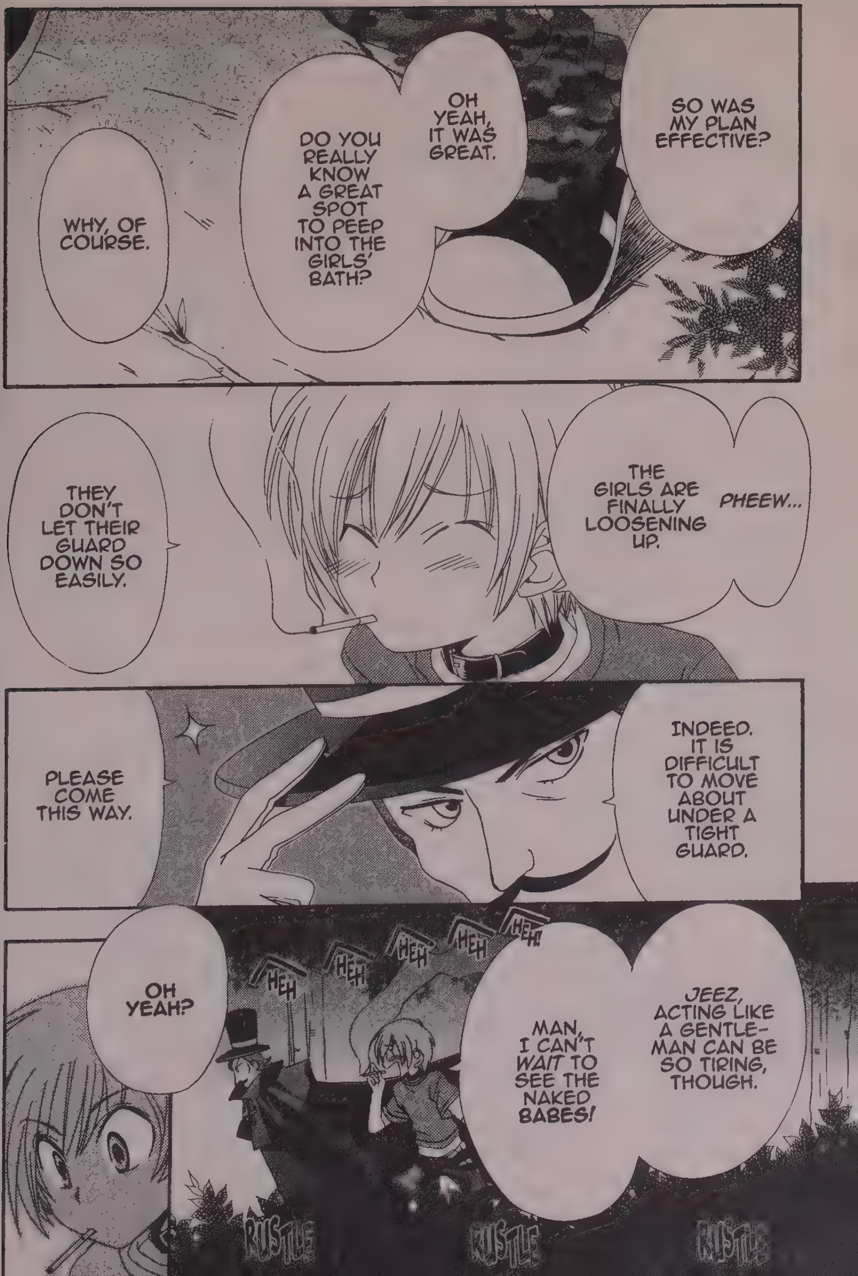

YOU GUYS!
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S FISHY?!
YOU KNOW, THE WAY KEITA THE PERVERT IS ACTING?!
WELL, HIS BEHAVIOR IS UNUSUAL.
IT'S LIKE HE'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON.
RIGHT? RIGHT?
BUT... COMPARED TO HIS SEXUAL HARASSMENT...
THIS IS MUCH BETTER.
SPLISH

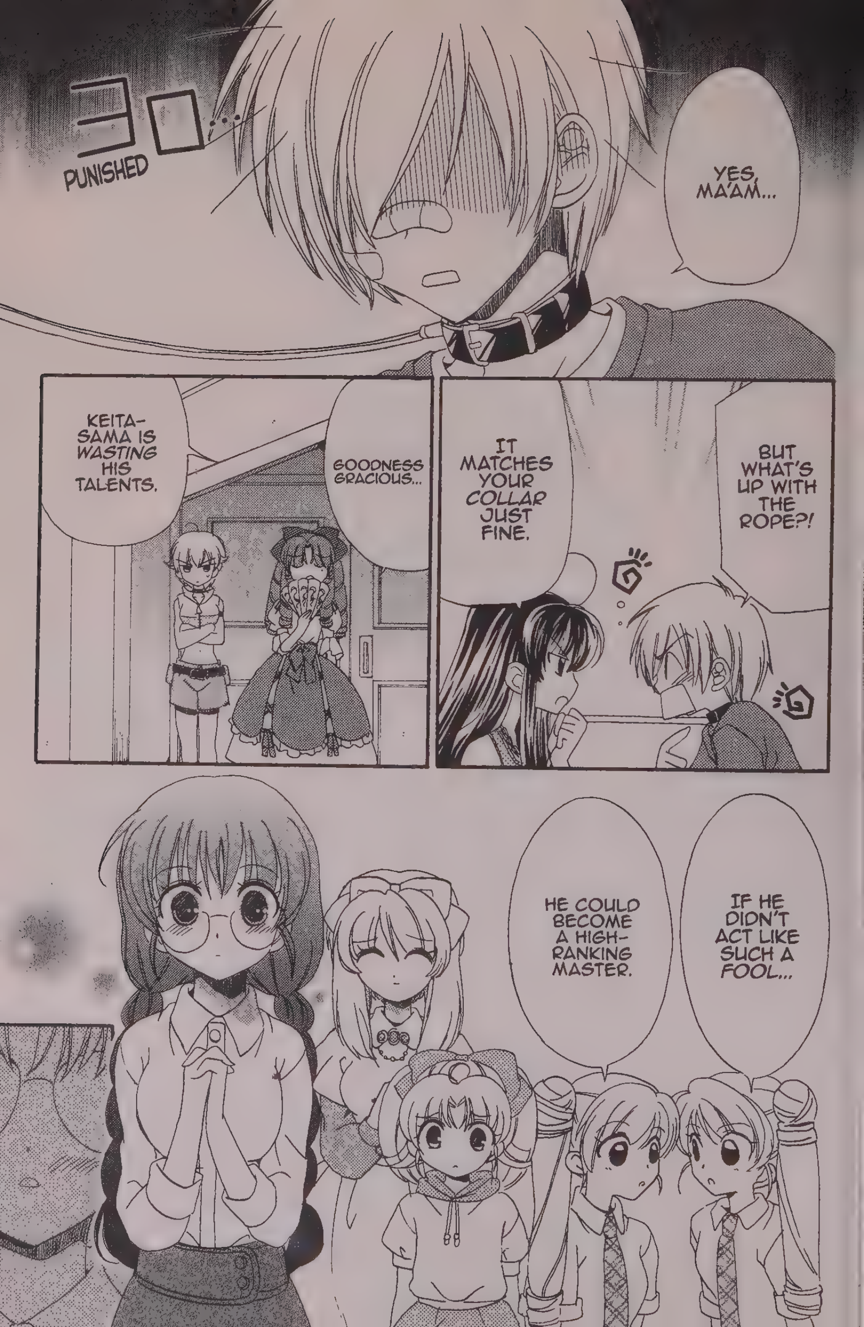

TAP
TAP

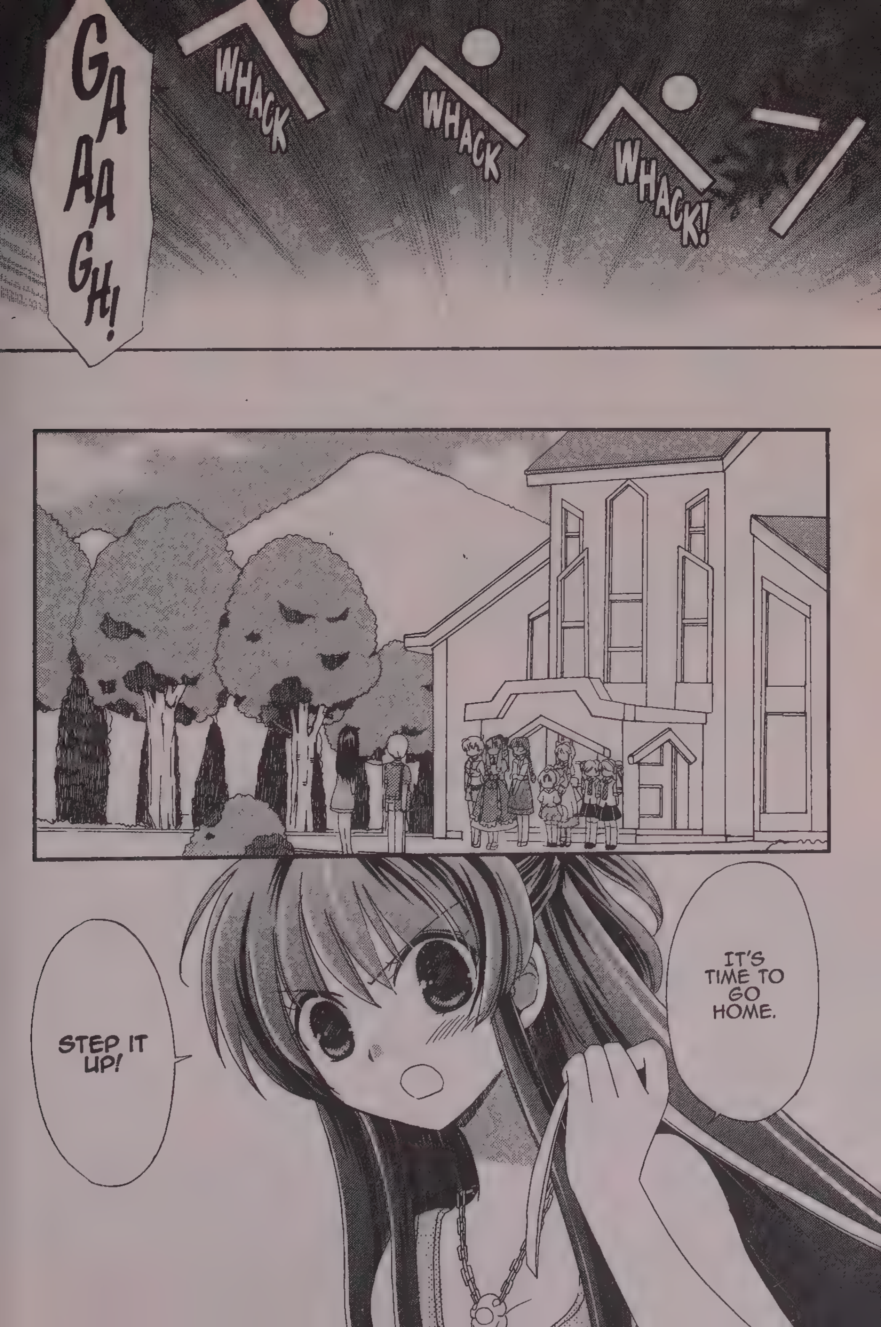

POOF
ポン
HE'LL MAKE TROUBLE IF YOU DON'T WATCH HIM.
HEY...
POOF
ポン
KEITA!
KEITA?

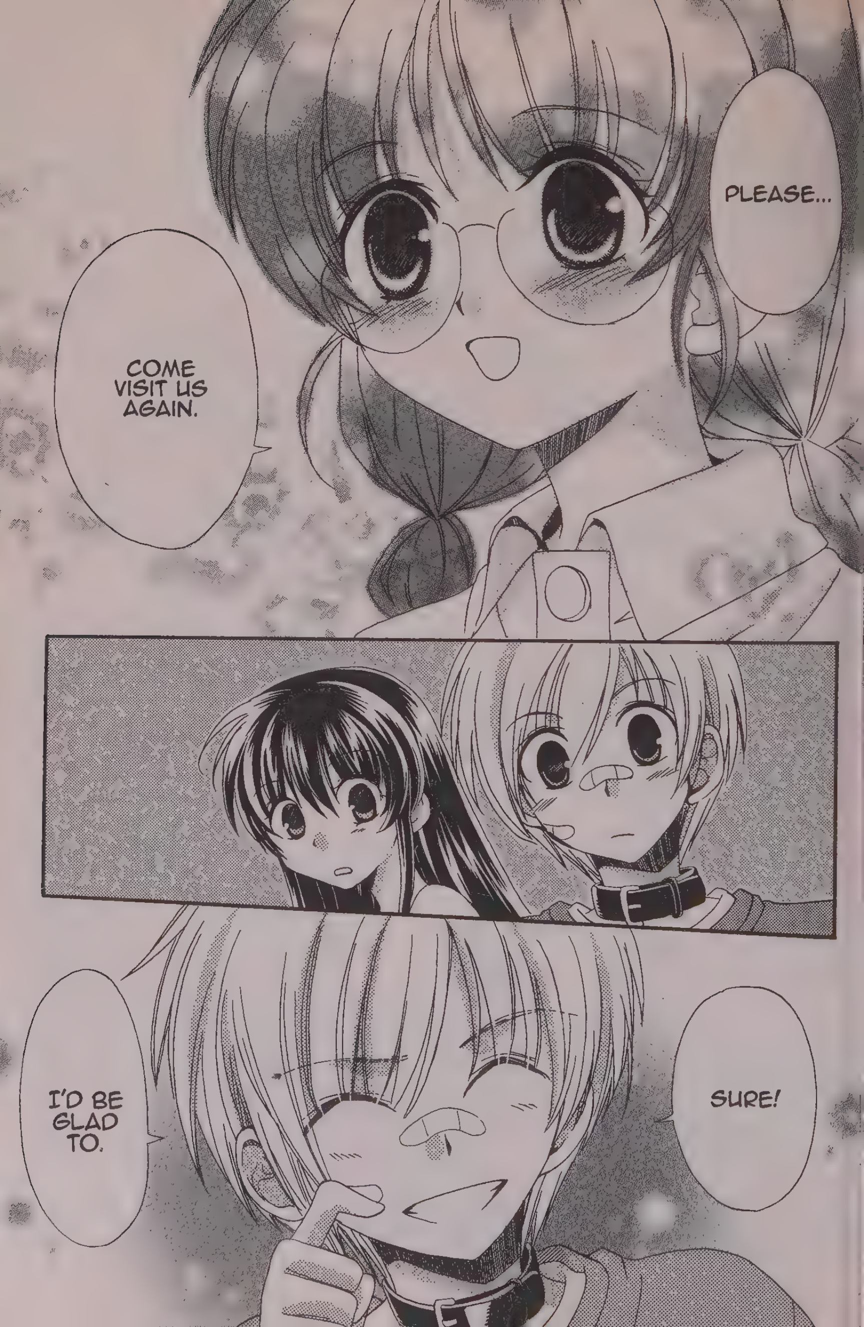

EH... B-BUT...!
KEITA IS STUPID AND PERVERTED...
AND HOPELESS, RIGHT...?
SPLASH
SPLASH
OHH, SHE'S SO JEALOUS.
BUT HER MASTER ISN'T AS POPULAR AS SHE THINKS.
WHISPER
WHISPER
FROOSH
ゴオオ
SPLASH
EEK!
SPLASH
ARGH!
HEY, IGUSA! WHY ARE YOU BLUSHING?!
UH... I... I'M NOT!
ANYWAY.
COMB
DON'T BE FOOLED BY KEITA!

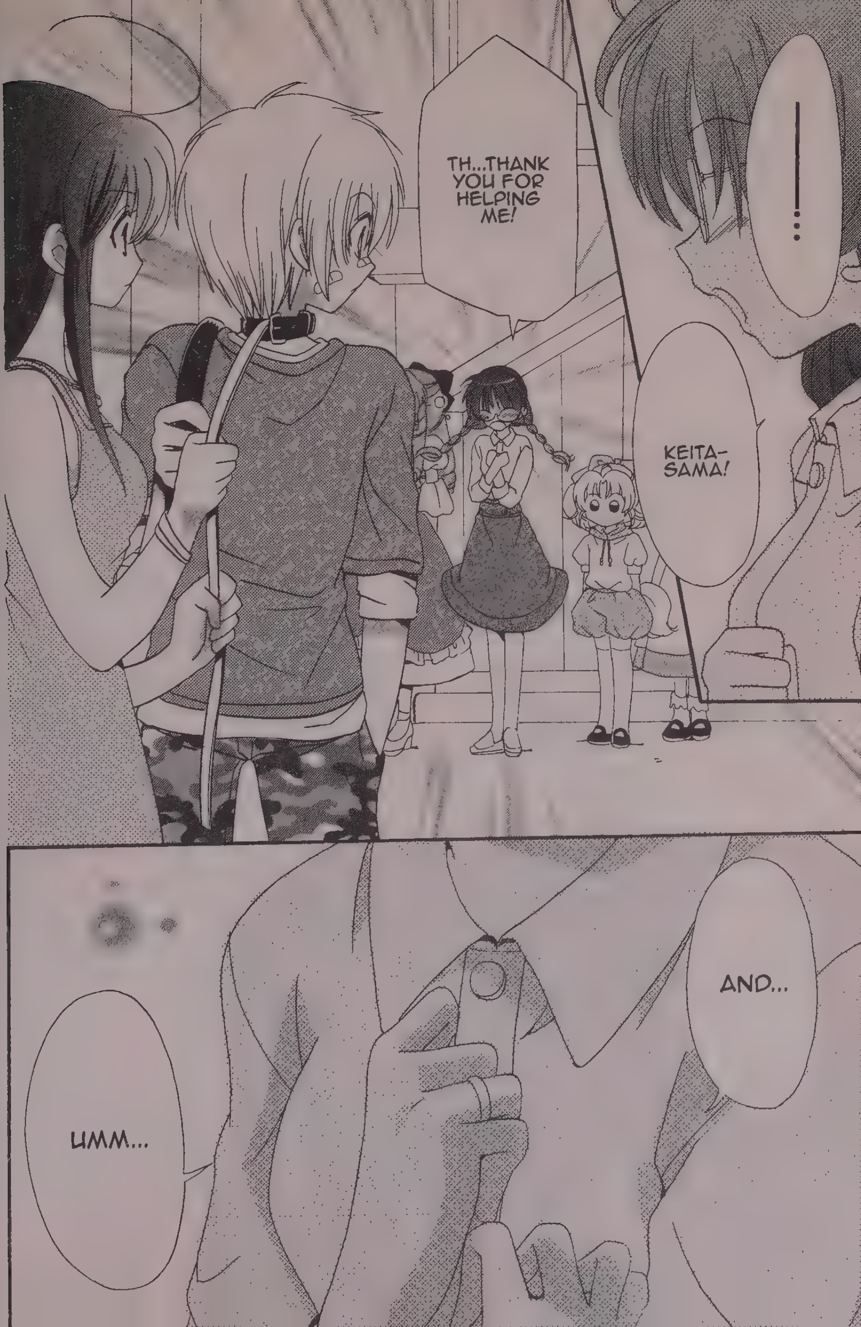

SO IT WAS A PLOY ALL ALONG?
KEITA.
GULP
ADIEU, MONSIEUR.
VANISH
HEY!
STEP
WAIT!

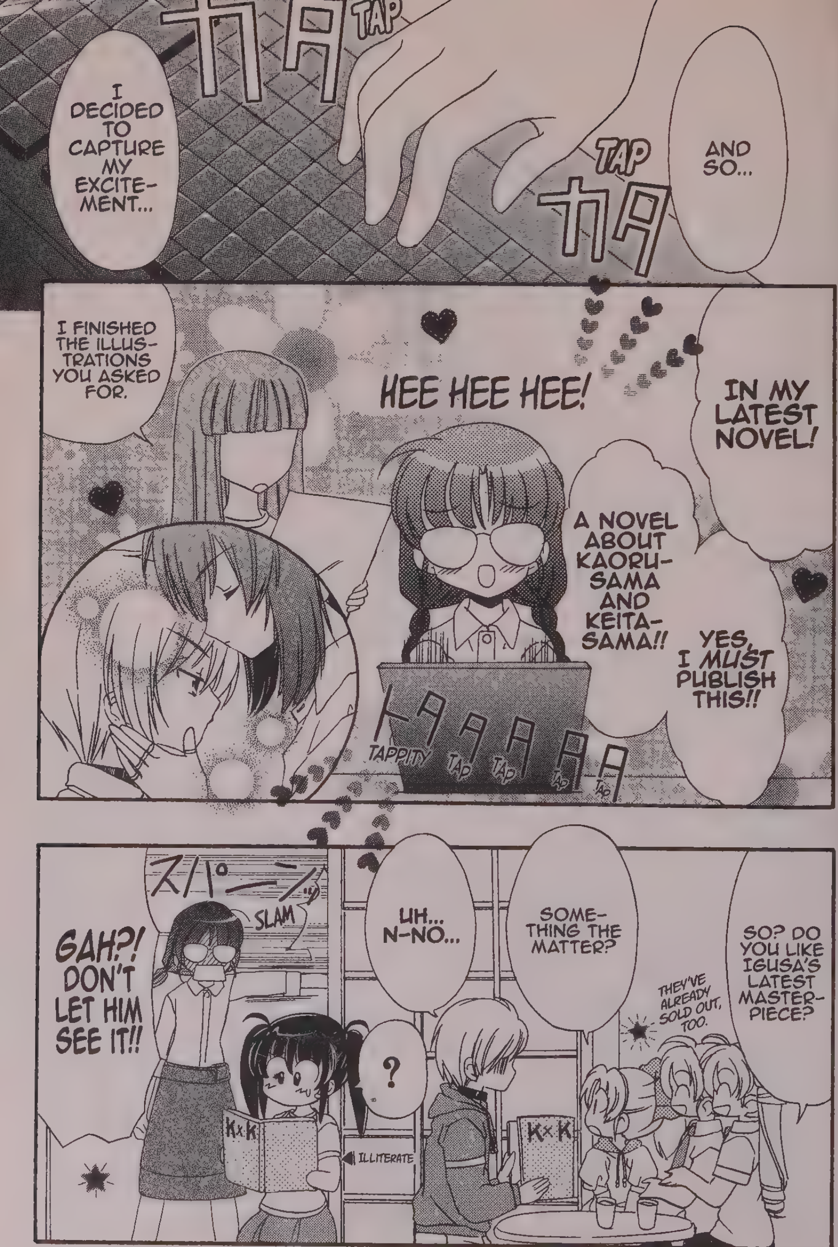

SO WAS MY PLAN EFFECTIVE?
OH YEAH, IT WAS GREAT.
DO YOU REALLY KNOW A GREAT SPOT TO PEEP INTO THE GIRLS' BATH?
WHY, OF COURSE.
PHEEW...
THE GIRLS ARE FINALLY LOOSENING UP.
THEY DON'T LET THEIR GUARD DOWN SO EASILY.
INDEED. IT IS DIFFICULT TO MOVE ABOUT UNDER A TIGHT GUARD.
PLEASE COME THIS WAY.
HEH!
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
JEEZ, ACTING LIKE A GENTLEMAN CAN BE SO TIRING, THOUGH.
MAN, I CAN'T *WAIT* TO SEE THE NAKED BABES!
OH YEAH?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

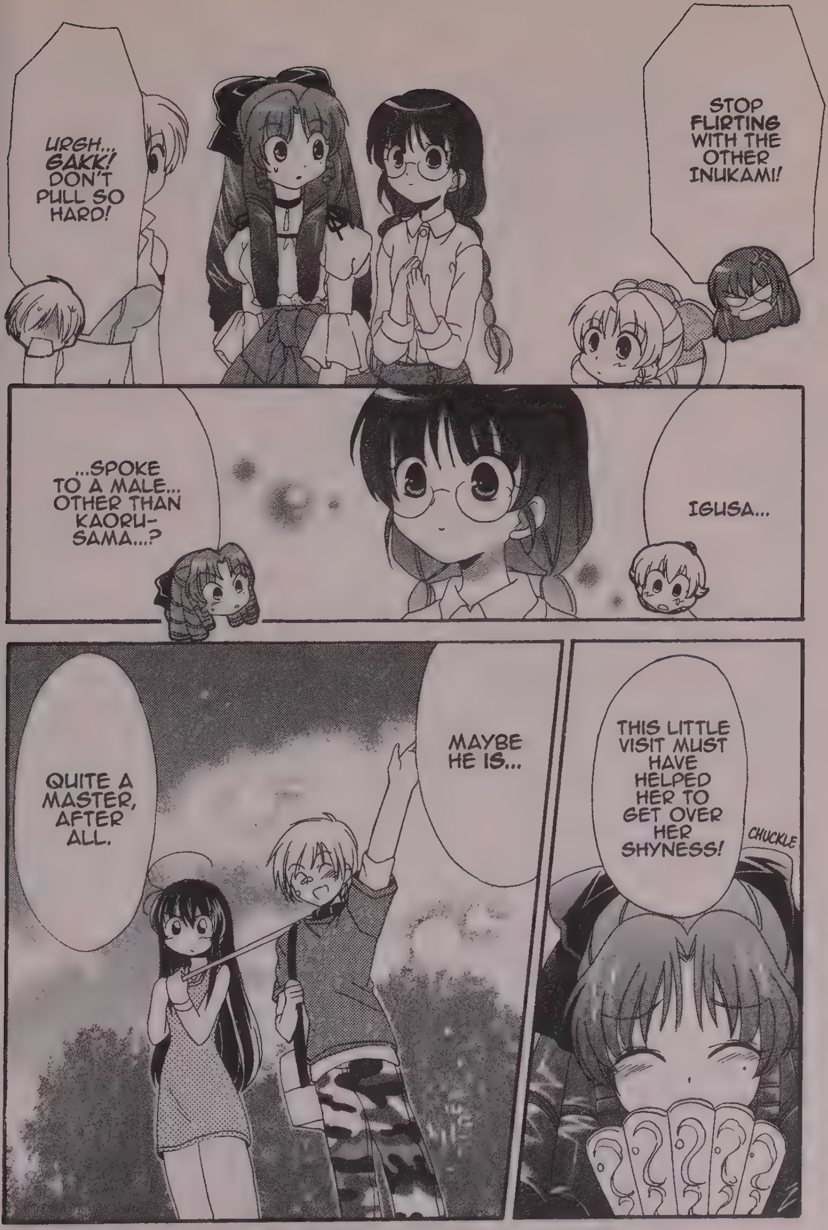

YES, MA'AM...
ヨロ...
PUNISHED
BUT WHAT'S UP WITH THE ROPE?!
IT MATCHES YOUR COLLAR JUST FINE.
GOODNESS GRACIOUS...
KEITA-SAMA IS WASTING HIS TALENTS.
IF HE DIDN'T ACT LIKE SUCH A FOOL...
HE COULD BECOME A HIGH-RANKING MASTER.

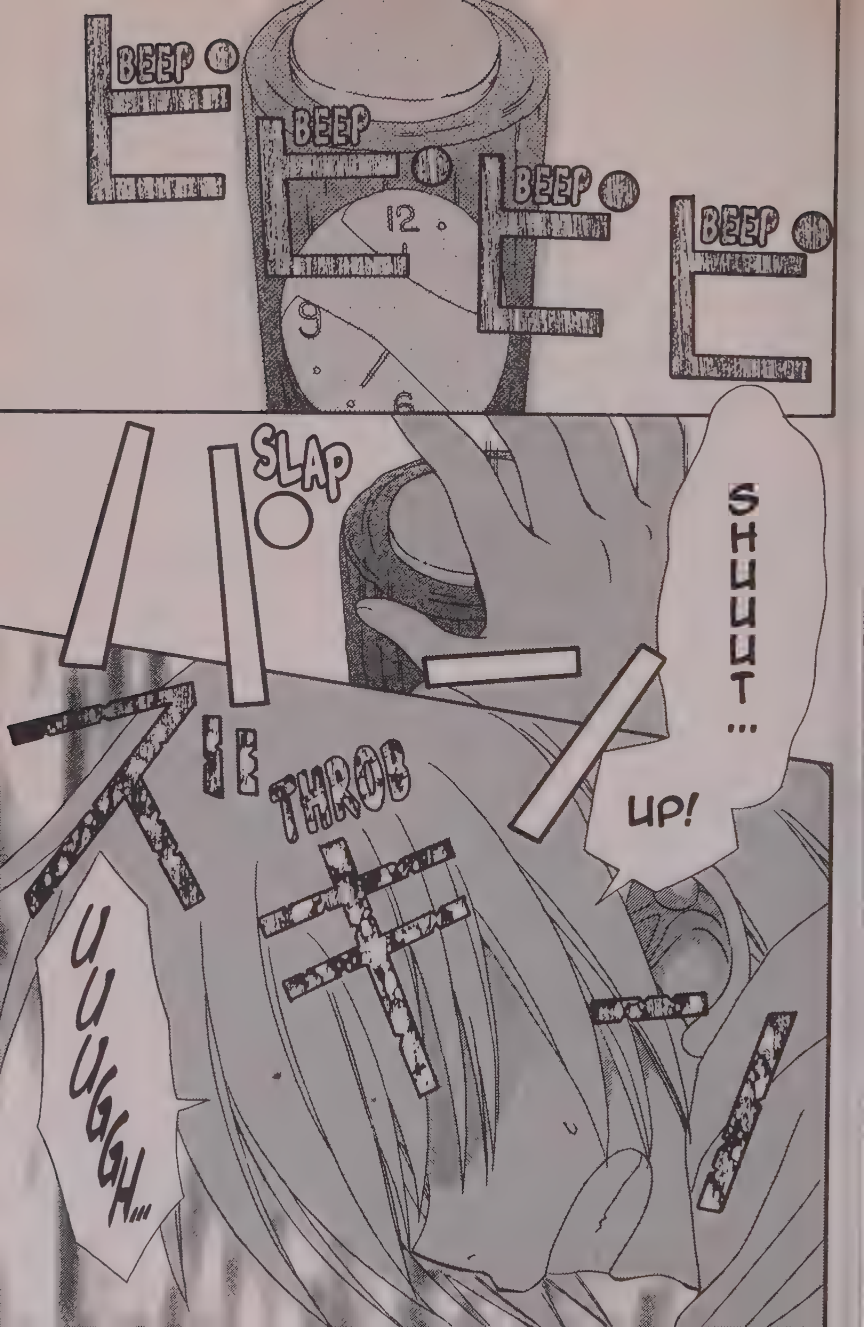

WHACK!
WHACK
WHACK
GAAAGH!
IT'S TIME TO GO HOME.
STEP IT UP!


PLEASE...
COME VISIT US AGAIN.
SURE!
I'D BE GLAD TO.


!...
KEITA-SAMA!
TH...THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME!
AND...
UMM...

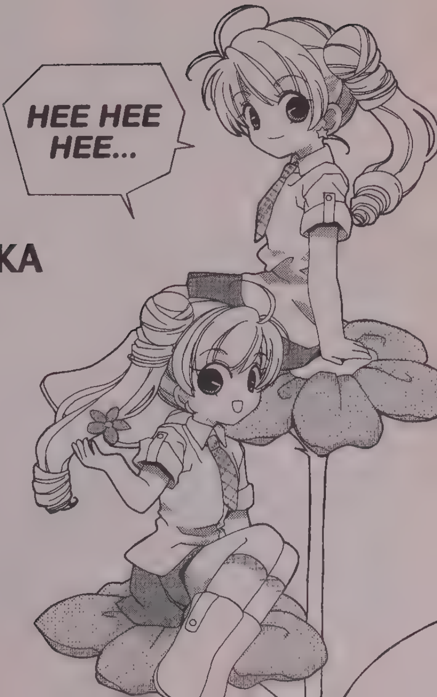

カタ
TAP
I DECIDED TO CAPTURE MY EXCITEMENT...
TAP
カタ
AND SO...
IN MY LATEST NOVEL!
A NOVEL ABOUT KAORU-SAMA AND KEITA-SAMA!!
YES, I *MUST* PUBLISH THIS!!
HEE HEE HEE!
トタタタタタ
TAPPITY TAP TAP TAP TAP
I FINISHED THE ILLUSTRATIONS YOU ASKED FOR.
SO? DO YOU LIKE IGUSA'S LATEST MASTERPIECE?
THEY'VE ALREADY SOLD OUT, TOO.
SOMETHING THE MATTER?
K×K
UH... N-NO...
?
K×K
ILLITERATE
スパーン
SLAM
GAH?! DON'T LET HIM SEE IT!!


STOP FLIRTING WITH THE OTHER INUKAMI!
URGH... GAKK! DON'T PULL SO HARD!
IGUSA...
...SPOKE TO A MALE... OTHER THAN KAORU-SAMA...?
THIS LITTLE VISIT MUST HAVE HELPED HER TO GET OVER HER SHYNESS!
CHUCKLE
MAYBE HE IS...
QUITE A MASTER, AFTER ALL.


BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
SHUUUT...
UP!
SLAP
THROB
UUUGGH...

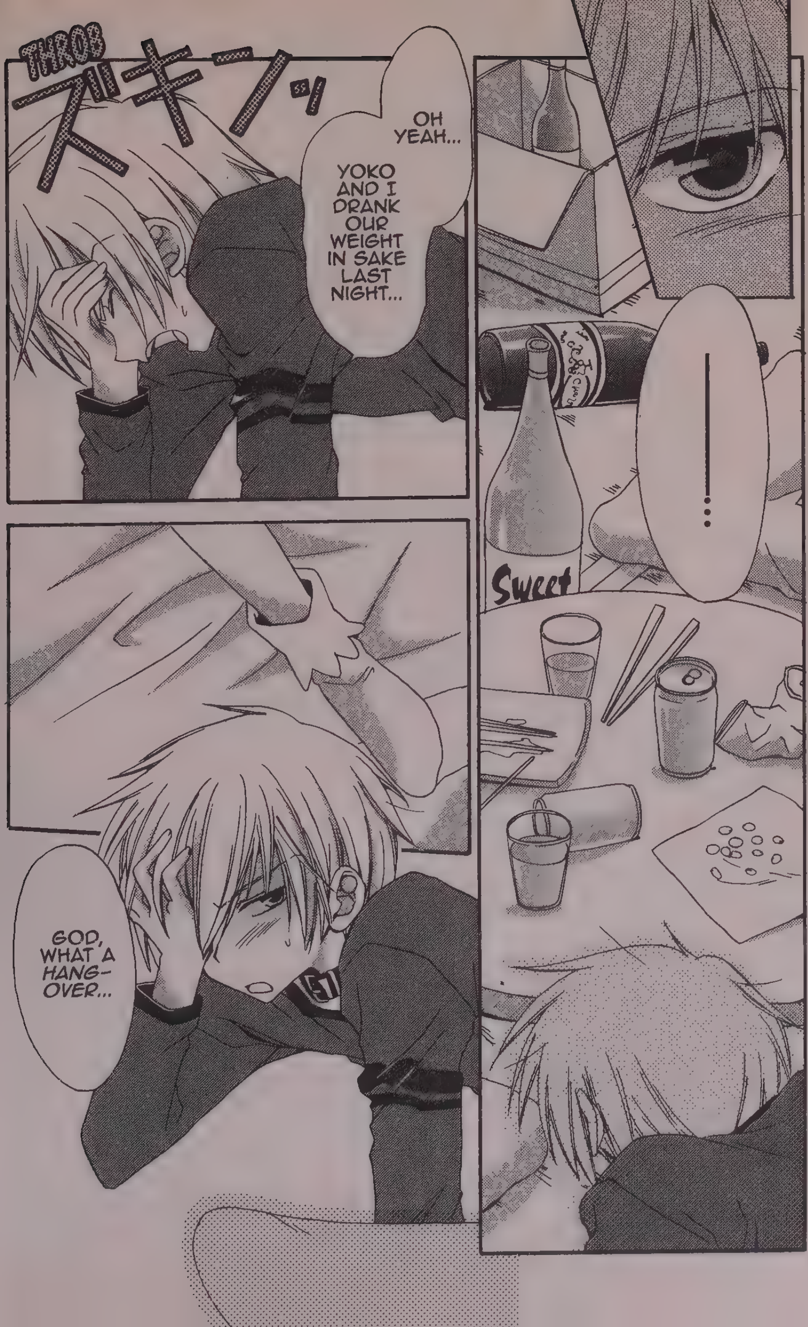
IMARI
& SAYOKA

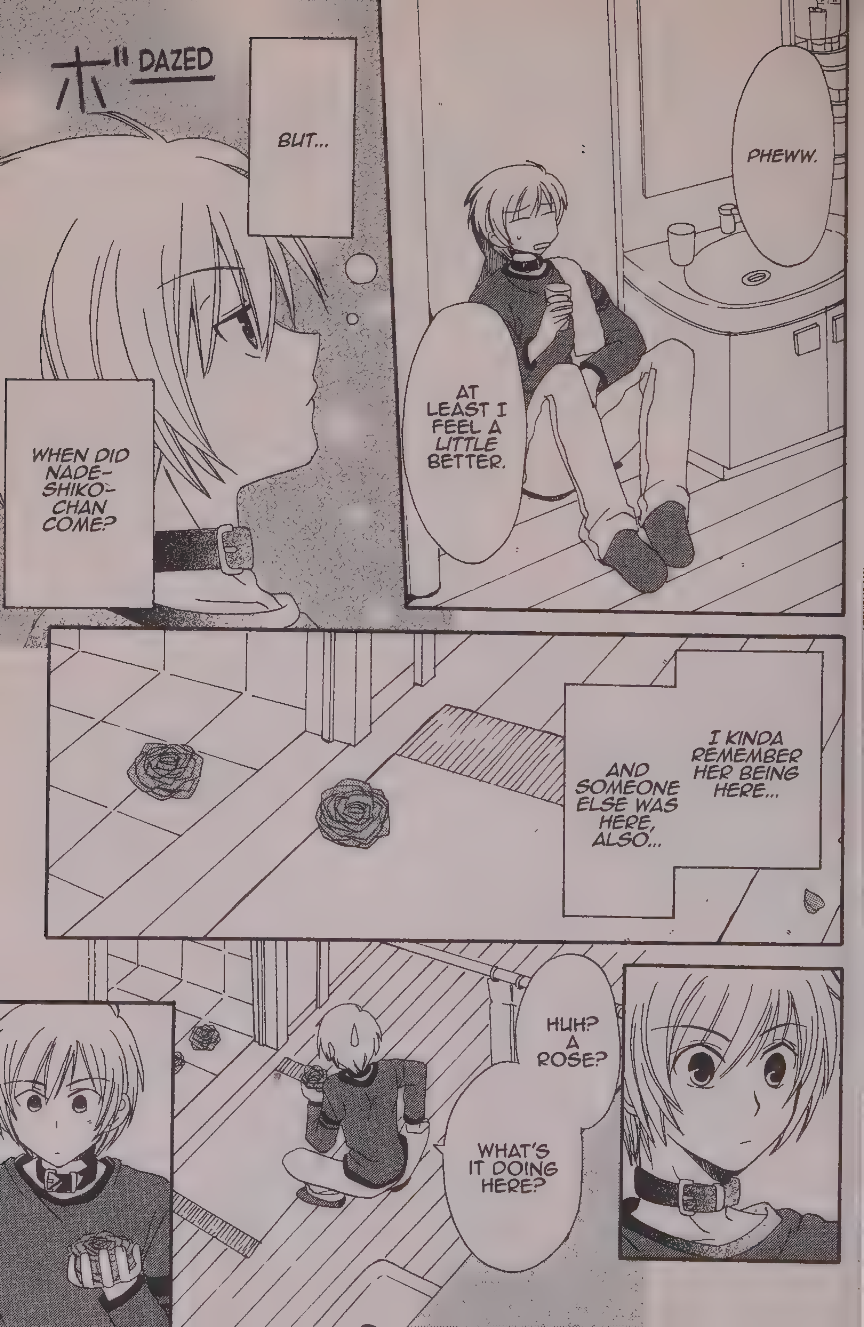
Height: 156 cm
Bust: 79 cm
Waist: 57 cm
Hip: 83 cm
Age: 100...?

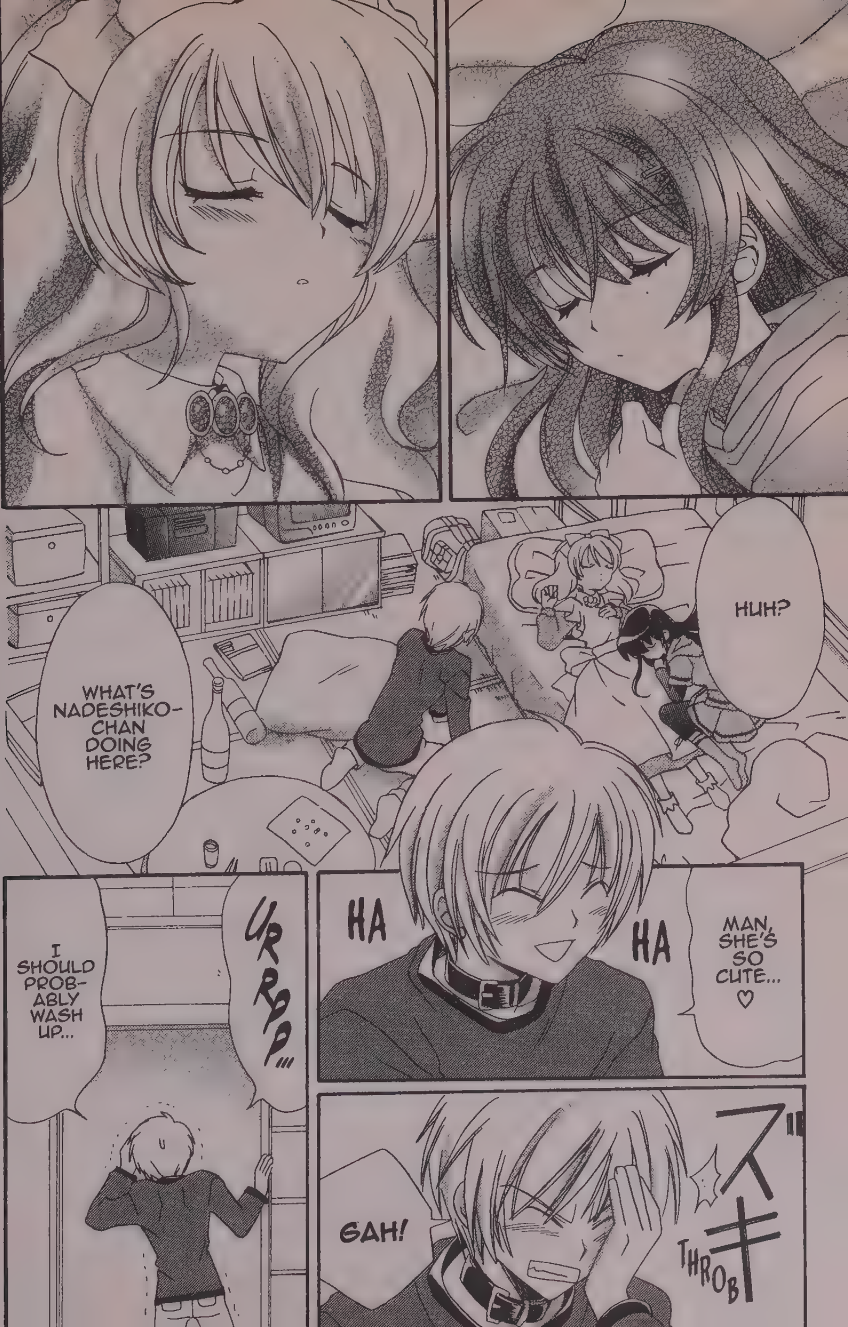


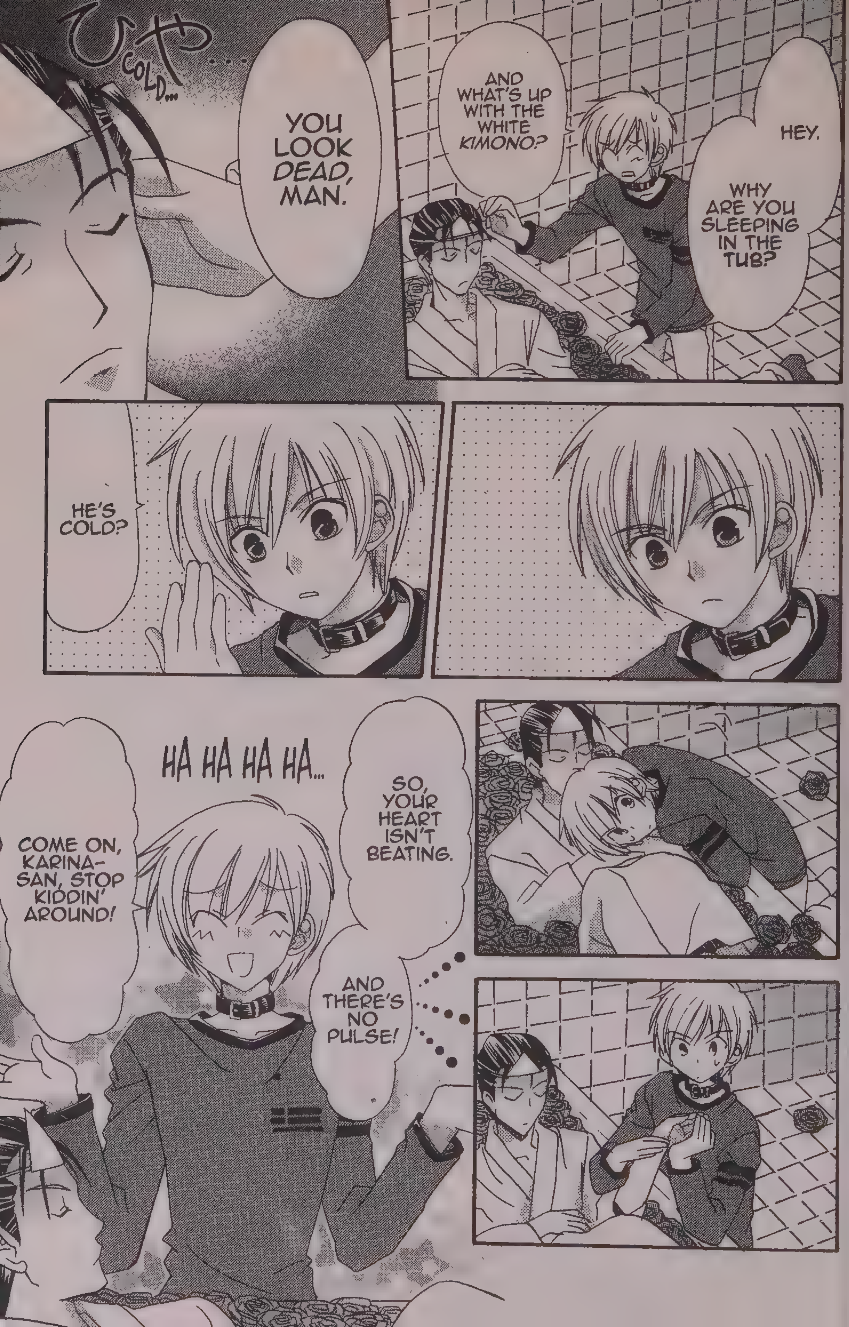
Step.13

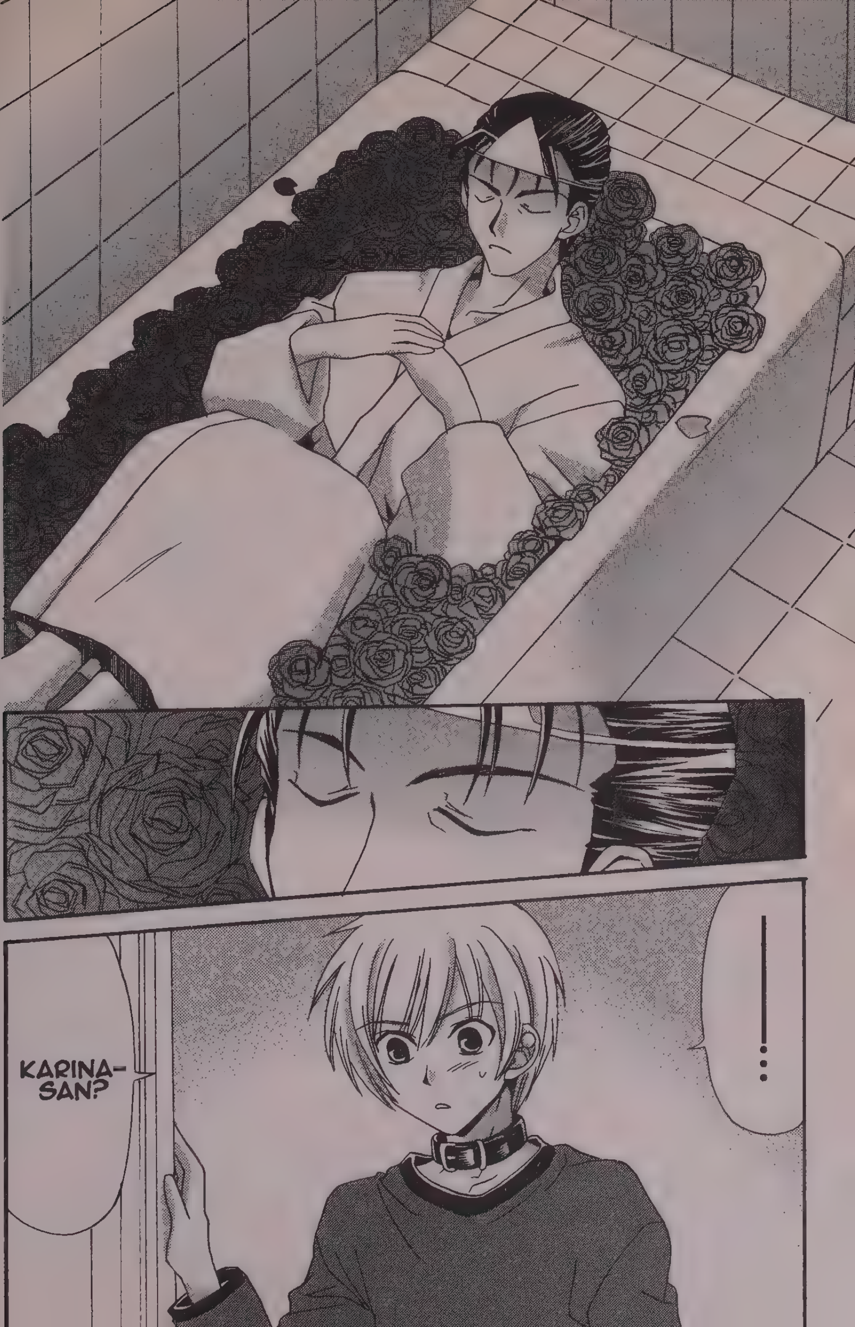
The Legend of the Holy Drunk

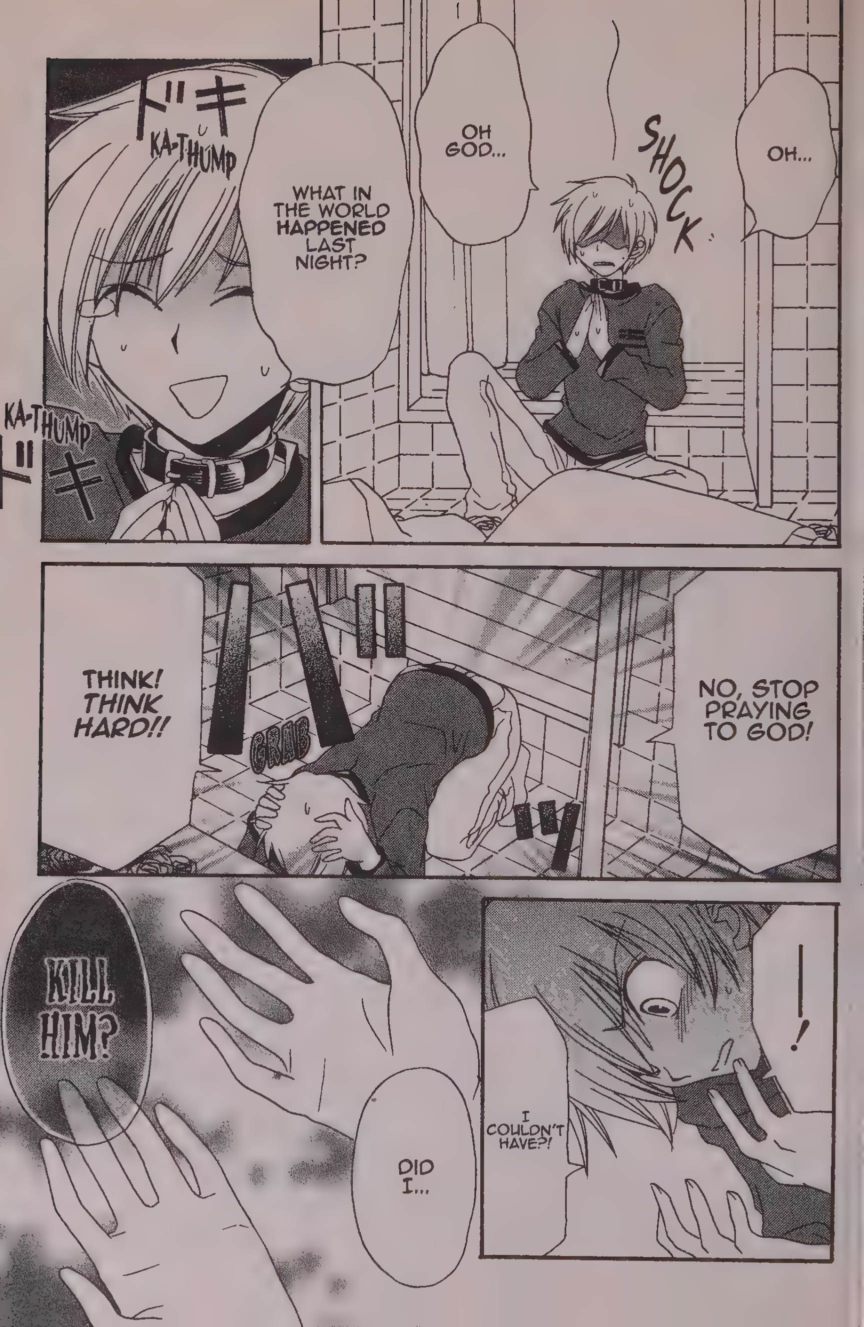

―……
Sweet
THROB
ズキンッ
OH YEAH...
YOKO AND I DRANK OUR WEIGHT IN SAKE LAST NIGHT...
GOD, WHAT A HANGOVER...

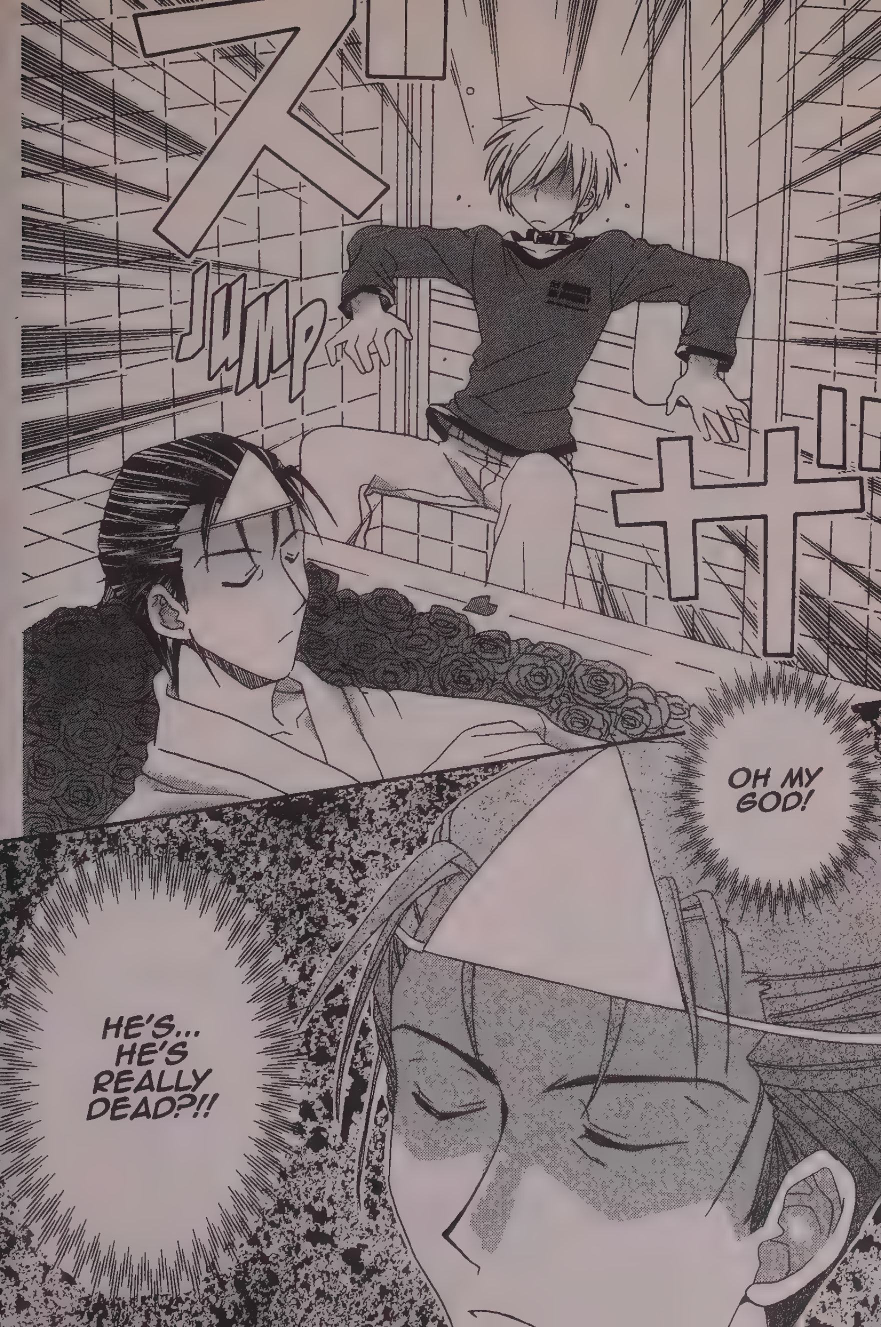

PHEWW.
AT LEAST I FEEL A LITTLE BETTER.
ボ DAZED
BUT...
WHEN DID NADESHIKO-CHAN COME?
I KINDA REMEMBER HER BEING HERE...
AND SOMEONE ELSE WAS HERE, ALSO...
HUH? A ROSE?
WHAT'S IT DOING HERE?

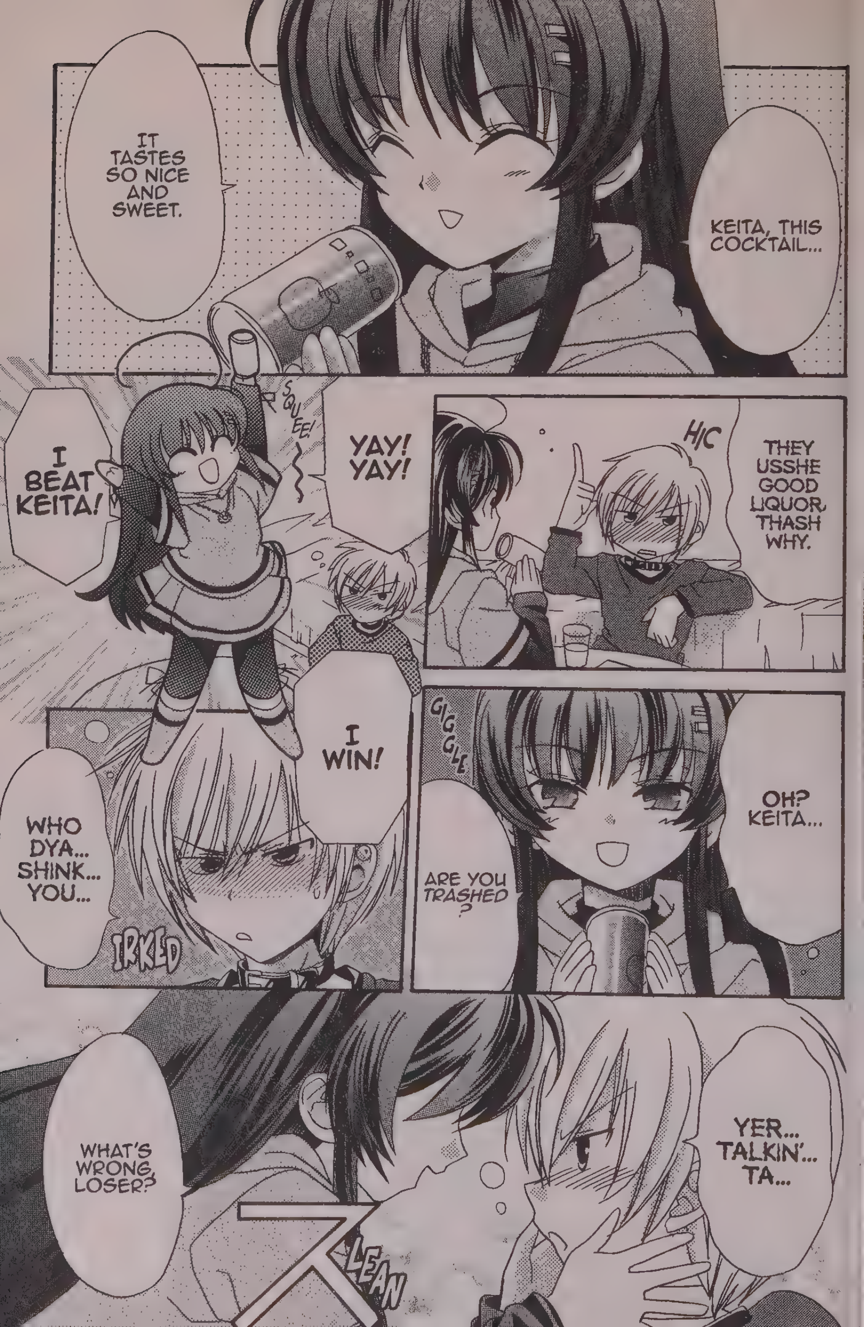

HUH?
WHAT'S NADESHIKO-CHAN DOING HERE?
MAN, SHE'S SO CUTE... ♡
HA
HA
URPP!!!
I SHOULD PROBABLY WASH UP...
スキ
THROB
GAH!

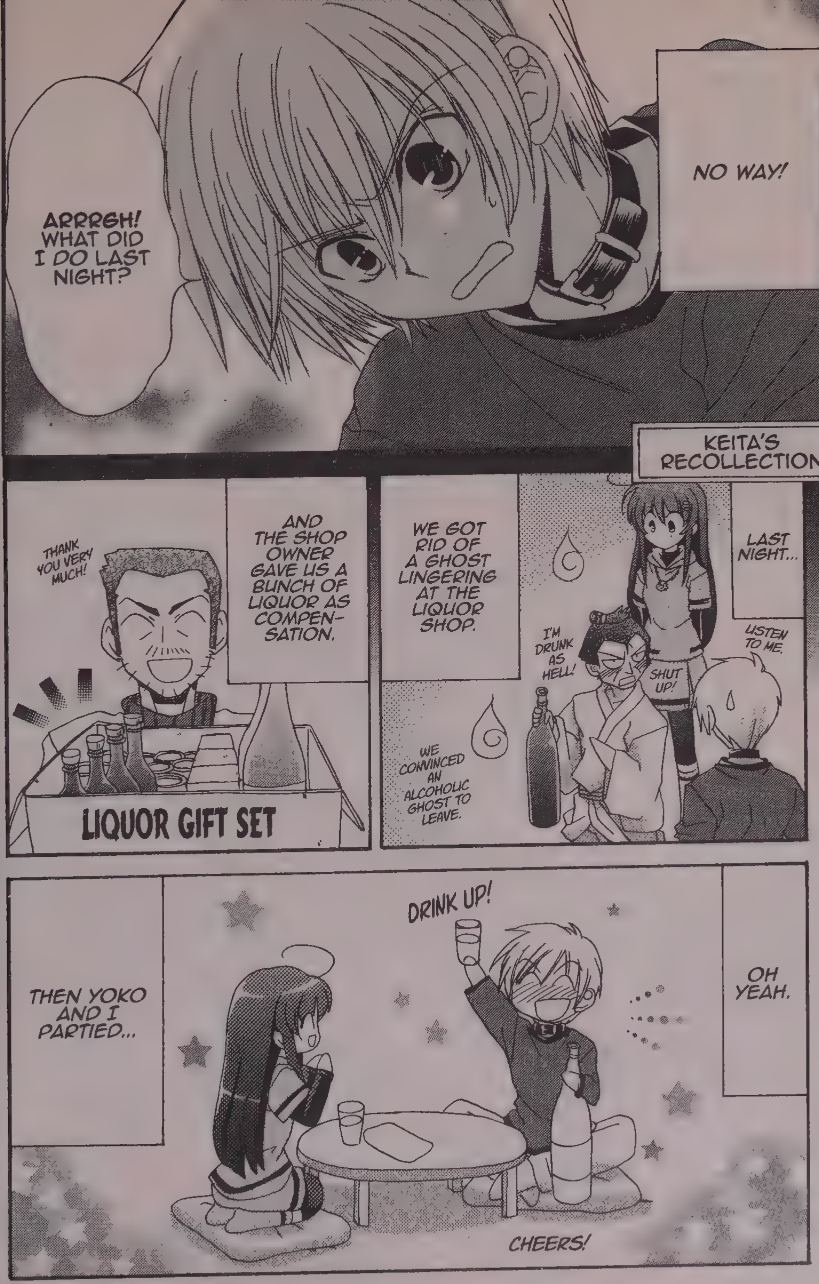

HEY.
WHY ARE YOU SLEEPING IN THE TUB?
AND WHAT'S UP WITH THE WHITE KIMONO?
YOU LOOK DEAD, MAN.
ひや
COLD...
HE'S COLD?
SO, YOUR HEART ISN'T BEATING.
AND THERE'S NO PULSE!
HA HA HA HA...
COME ON, KARINA-SAN, STOP KIDDIN' AROUND!

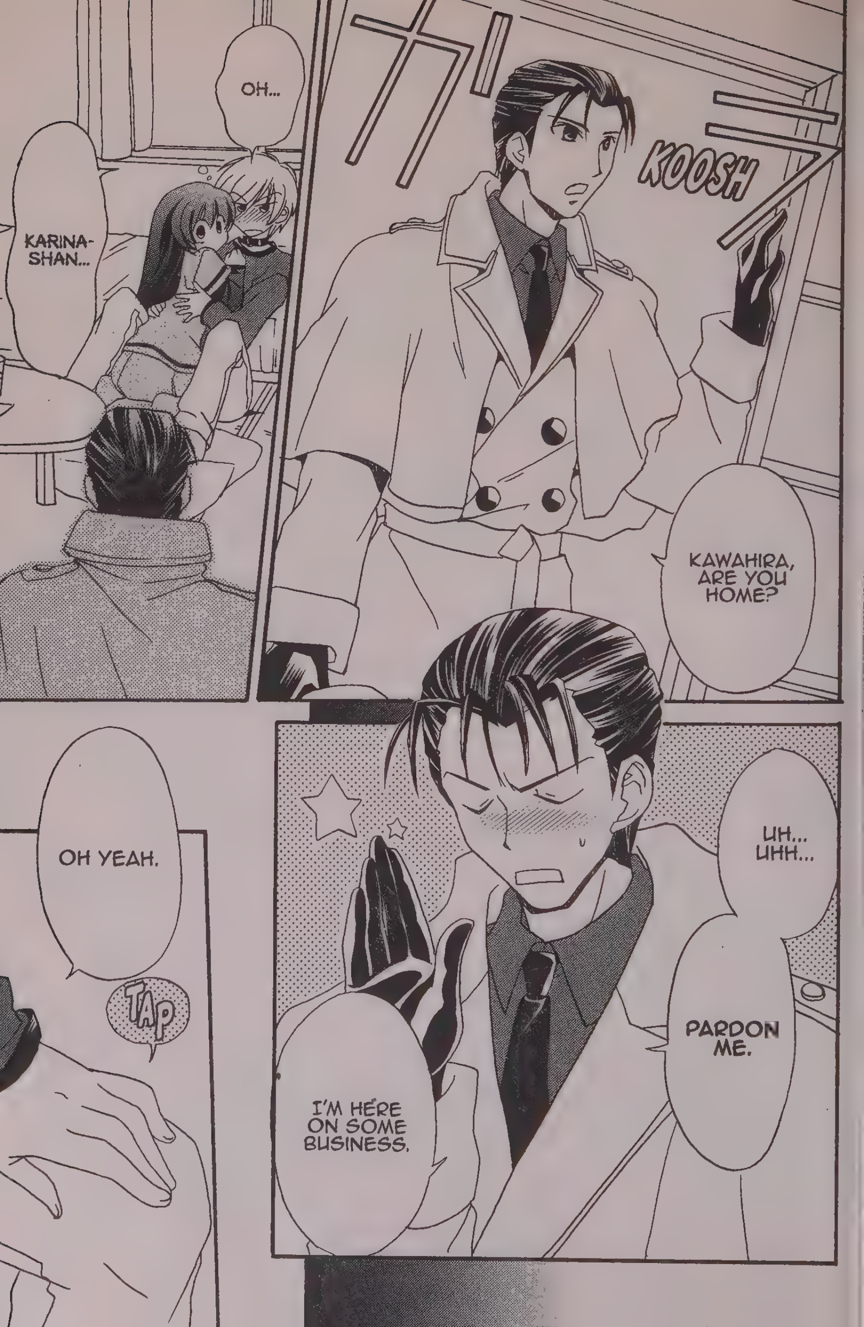

……!
KARINA-SAN?

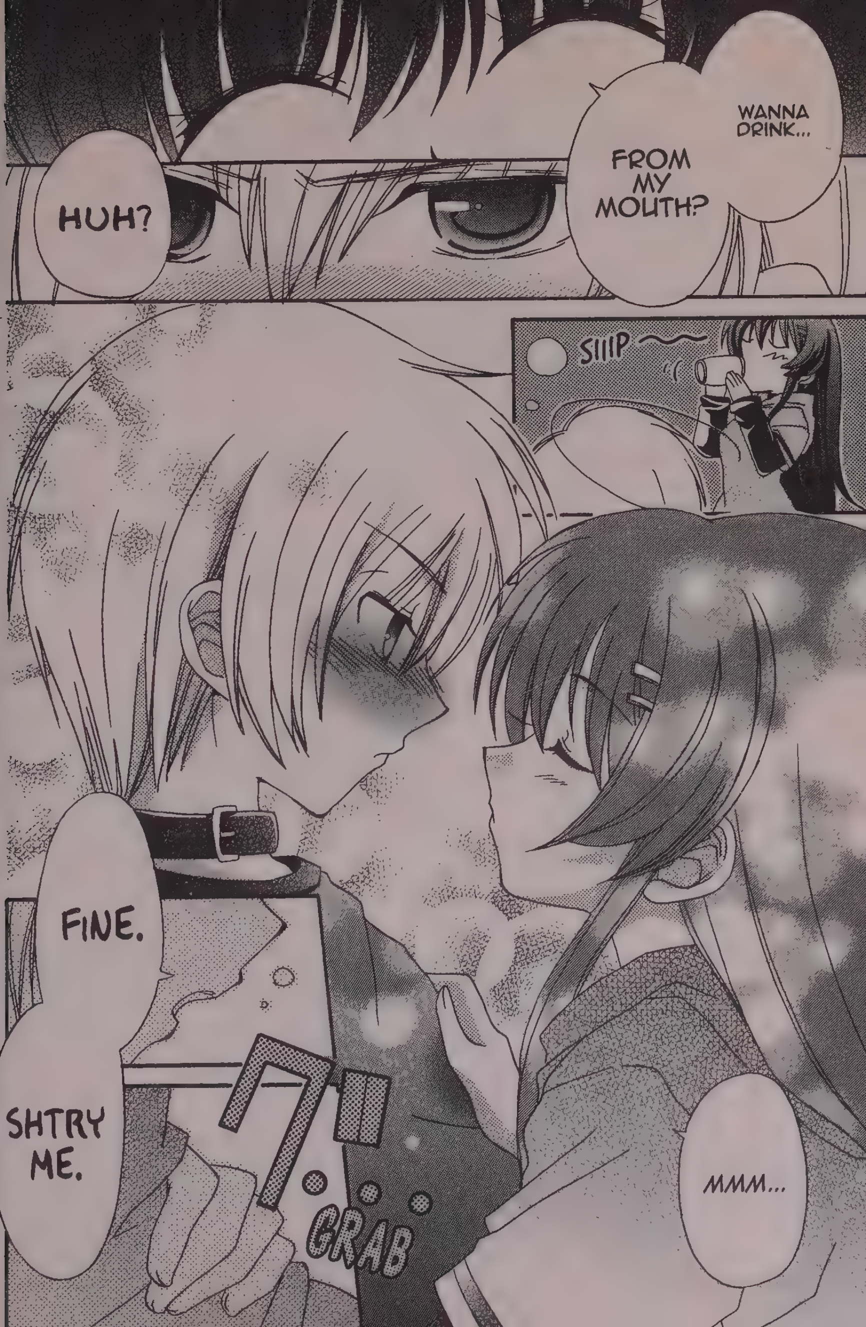

OH...
SHOCK
OH GOD...
WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?
ドキ KA-THUMP
ドキ KA-THUMP
NO, STOP PRAYING TO GOD!
GRAB
THINK! THINK HARD!!
!
I COULDN'T HAVE?!
DID I...
KILL HIM?

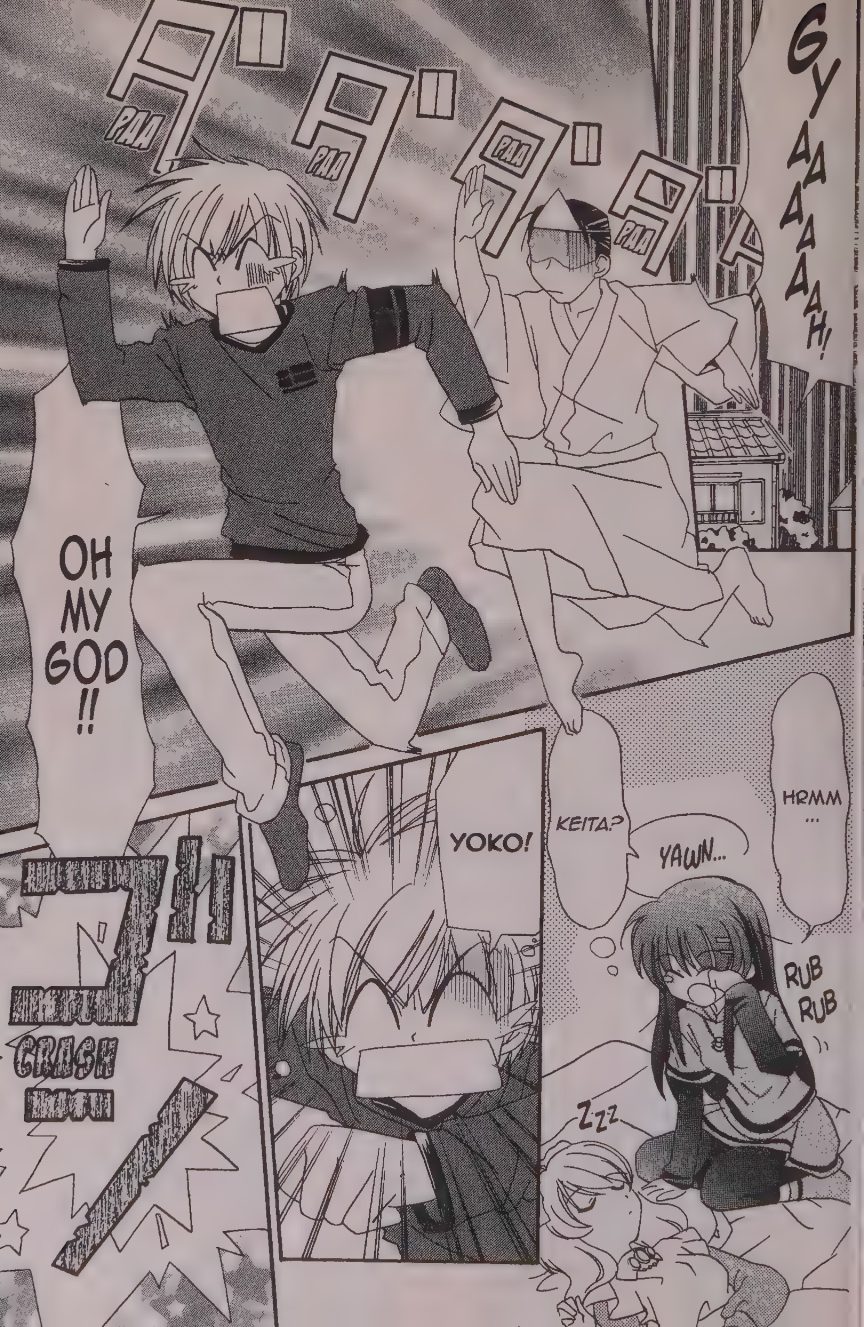

ス
JUMP
ザ!!
OH MY GOD!
HE'S... HE'S REALLY DEAD?!!

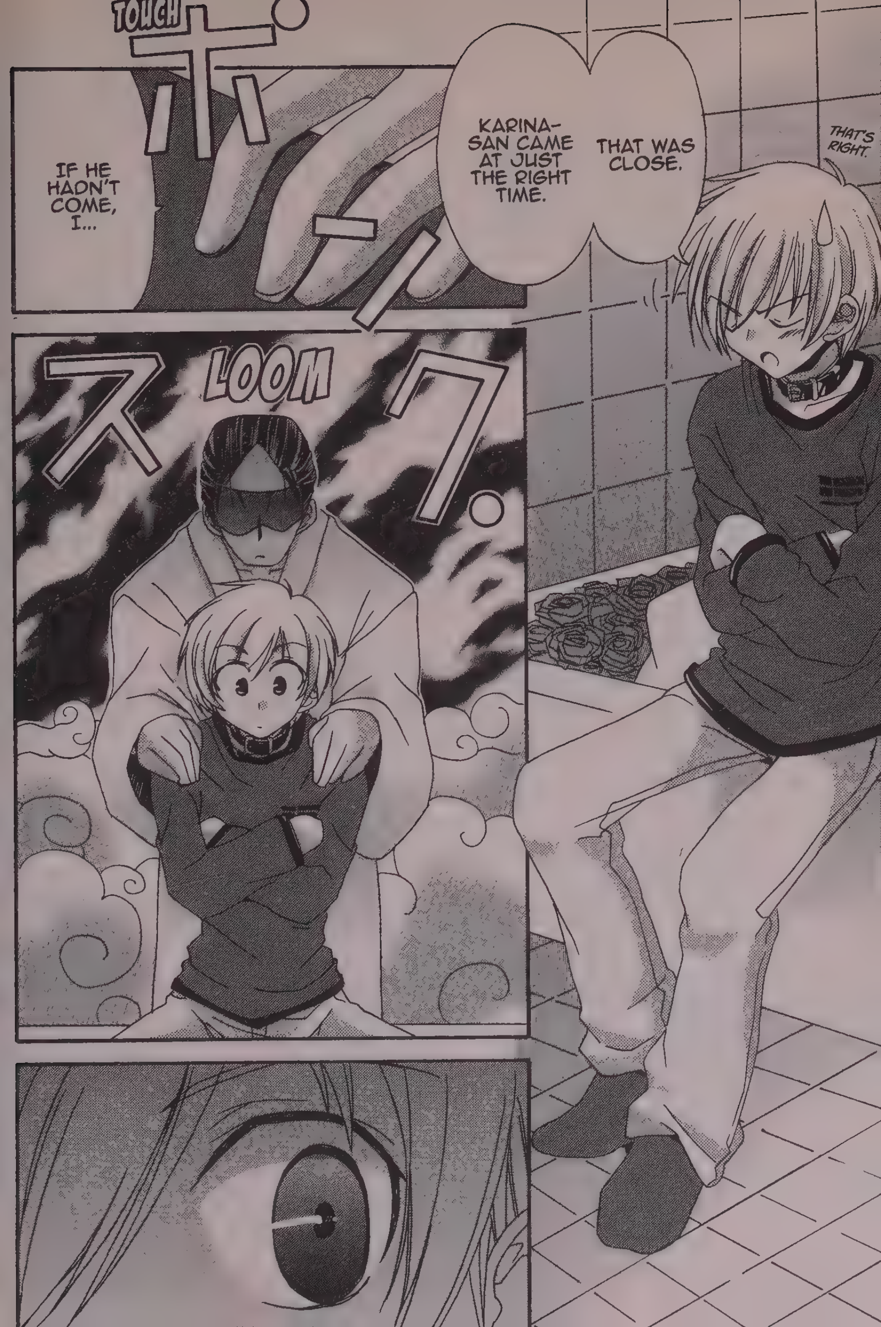

KEITA, THIS COCKTAIL...
IT TASTES SO NICE AND SWEET.
HIC
THEY USSHE GOOD LIQUOR, THASH WHY.
YAY! YAY!
SQUEE!
I BEAT KEITA!
GIGGLE
OH? KEITA...
ARE YOU TRASHED?
I WIN!
WHO DYA... SHINK... YOU...
IRKED
YER... TALKIN'... TA...
WHAT'S WRONG, LOSER?
LEAN

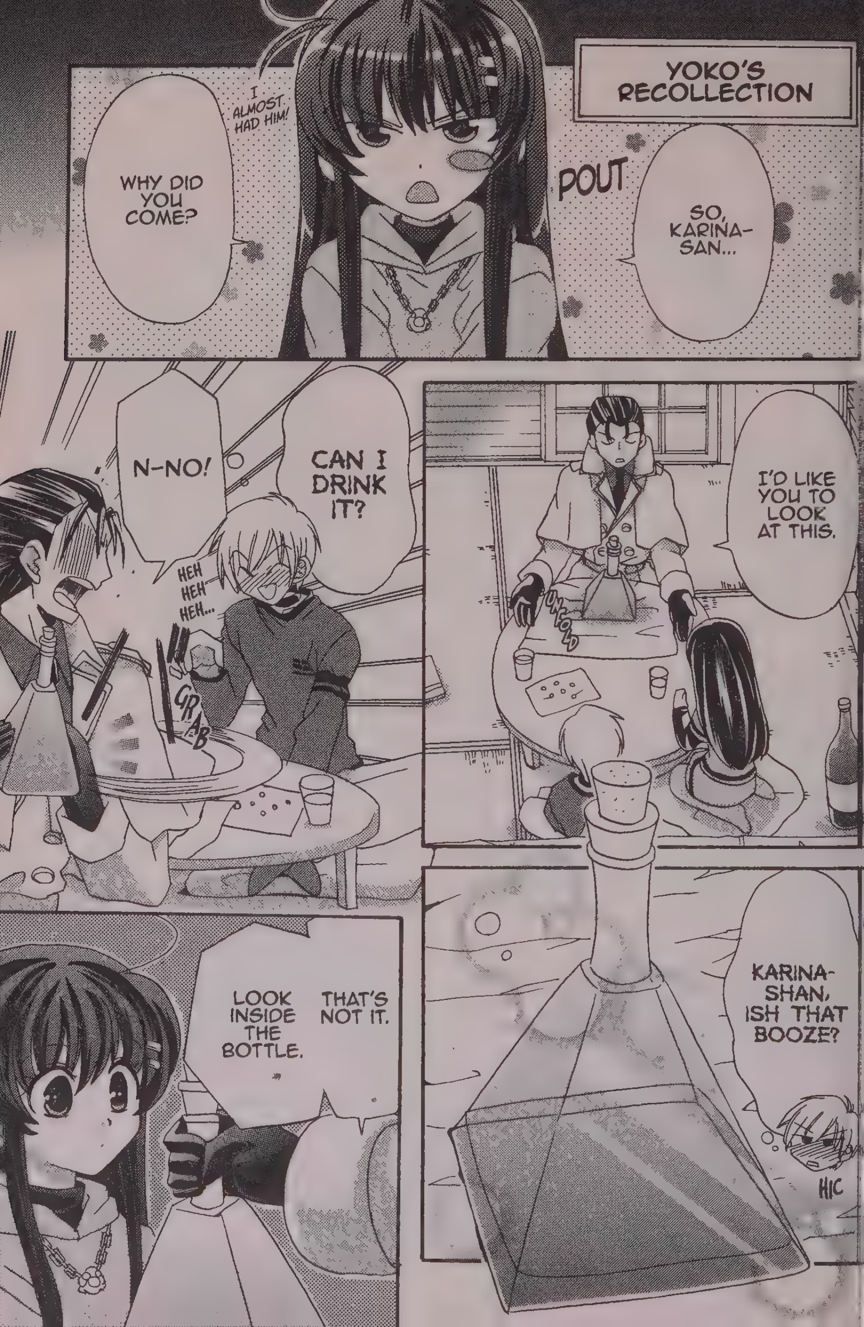

NO WAY!
ARRRGH! WHAT DID I DO LAST NIGHT?
KEITA'S RECOLLECTION
LAST NIGHT...
LISTEN TO ME.
SHUT UP!
I'M DRUNK AS HELL!
WE GOT RID OF A GHOST LINGERING AT THE LIQUOR SHOP.
WE CONVINCED AN ALCOHOLIC GHOST TO LEAVE.
AND THE SHOP OWNER GAVE US A BUNCH OF LIQUOR AS COMPENSATION.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
LIQUOR GIFT SET
OH YEAH.
DRINK UP!
CHEERS!
THEN YOKO AND I PARTIED...

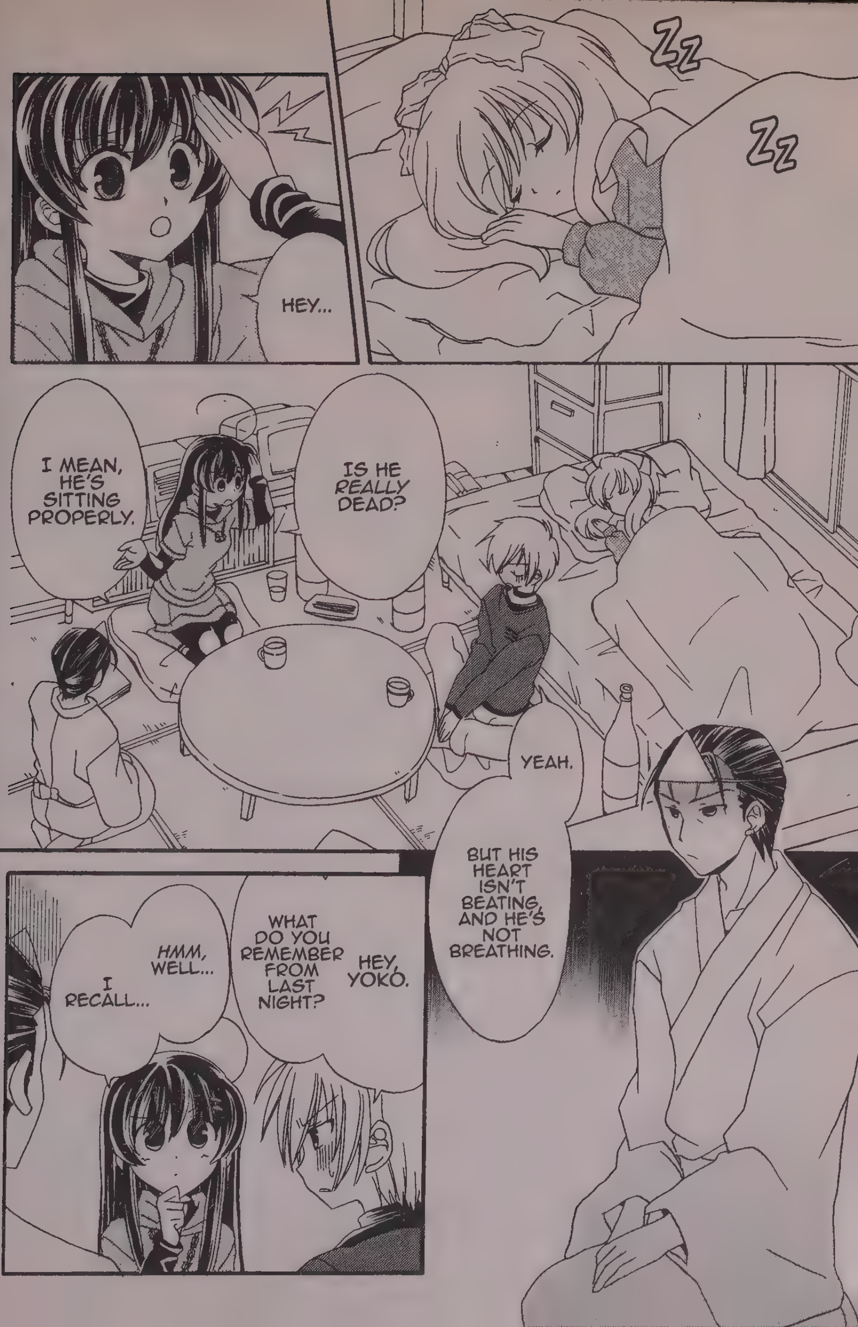

KOOSH
KAWAHIRA, ARE YOU HOME?
OH...
KARINA-SHAN...
UH... UHH...
PARDON ME.
I'M HERE ON SOME BUSINESS.
OH YEAH.
TAP

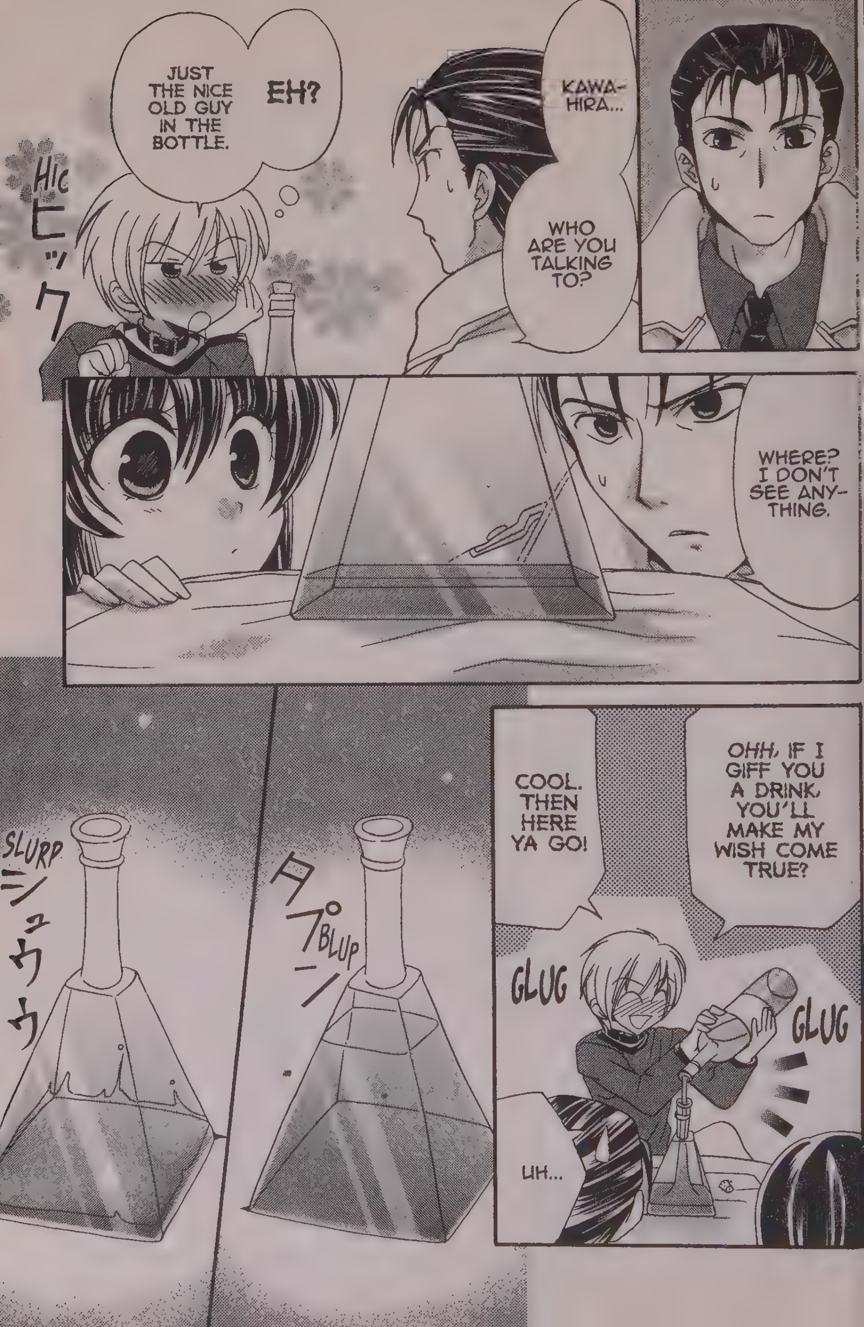

WANNA DRINK...
FROM MY MOUTH?
HUH?
SIIIP
FINE.
MMM...
GRAB
SHTRY ME.

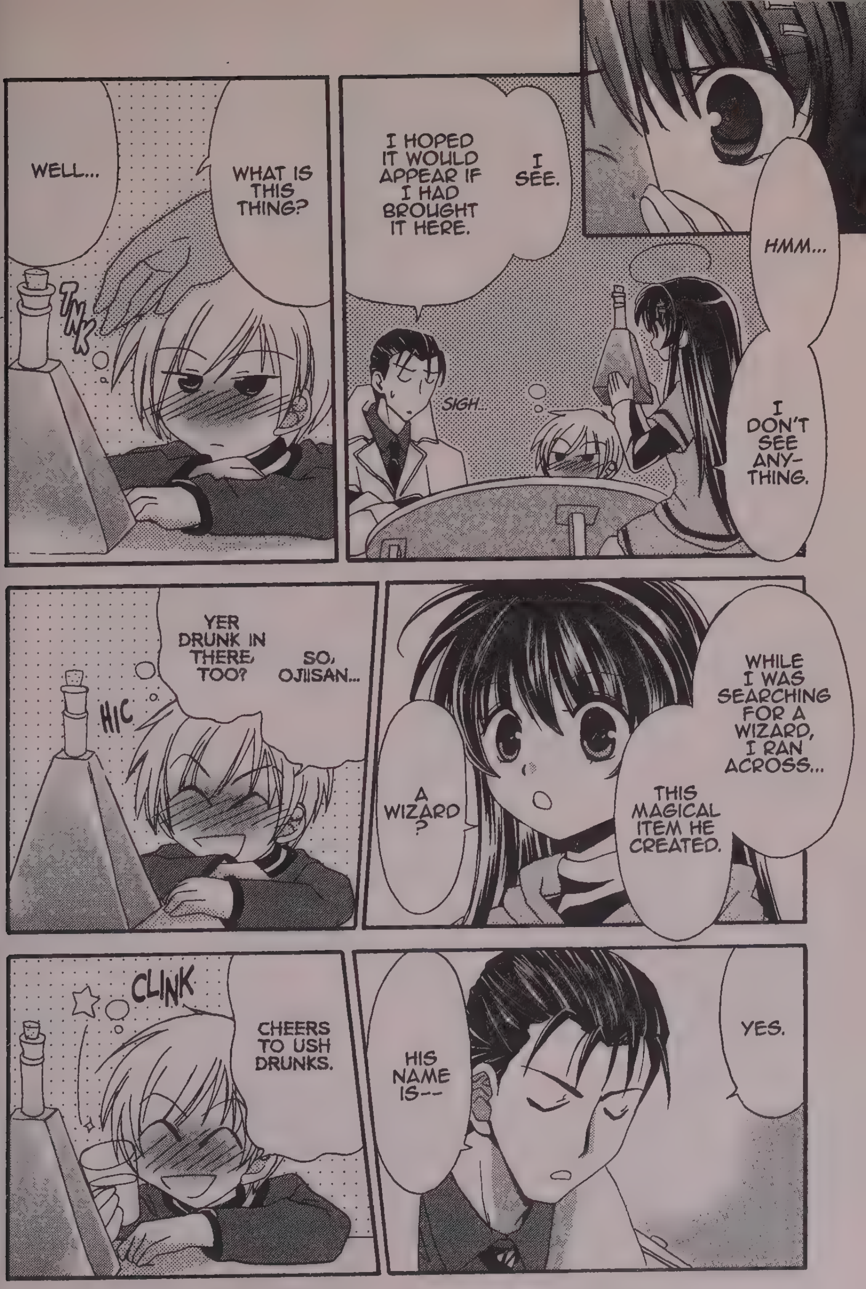

GYAAAAAAH!
ダ PAA
ダ PAA
ダ PAA
ダッ PAA
OH MY GOD!!
HRMM ...
YAWN...
KEITA?
RUB RUB
Zzz
YOKO!
ガ!! CRASH

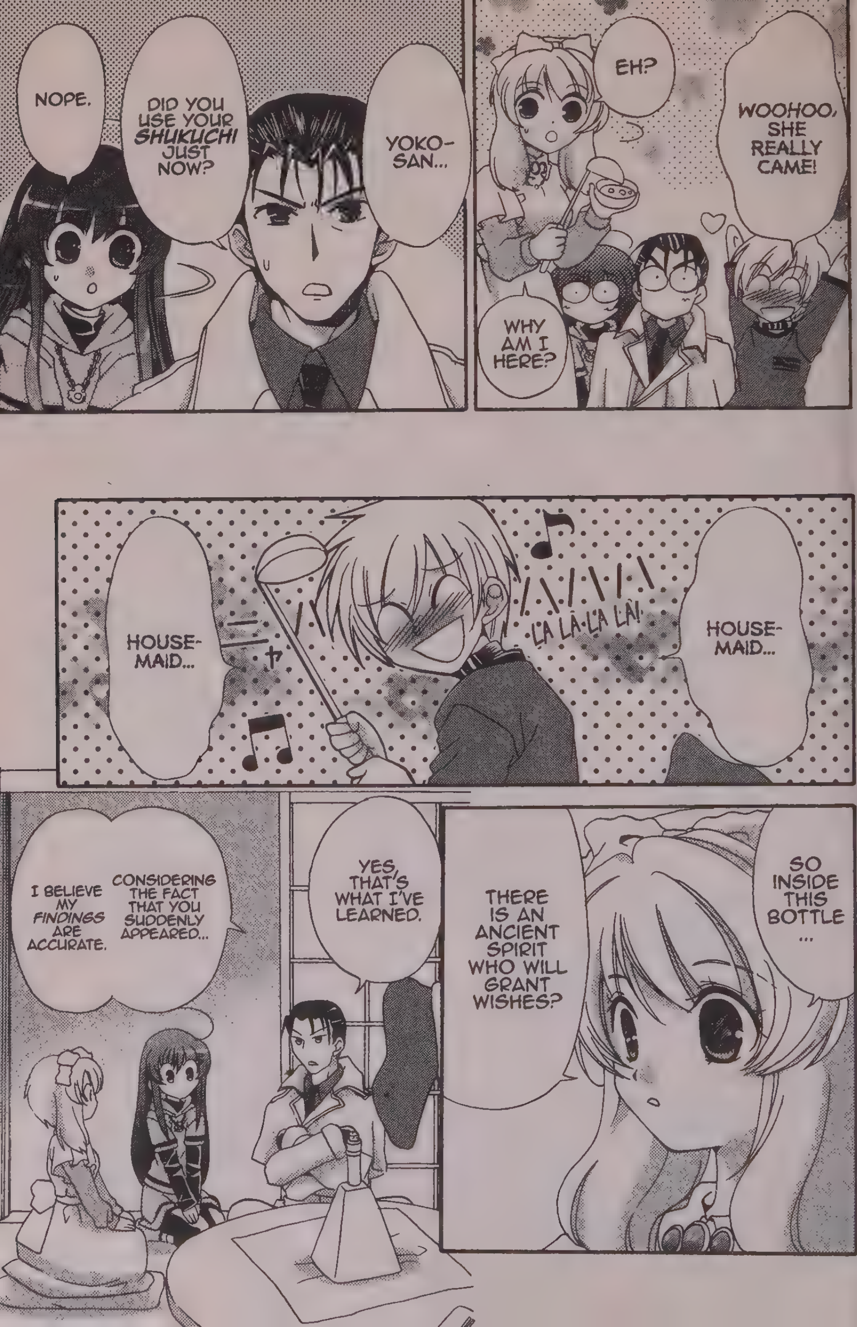

THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT WAS CLOSE.
KARINA-SAN CAME AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME.
TOUCH
ポーン
IF HE HADN'T COME, I...
LOOM
スク。

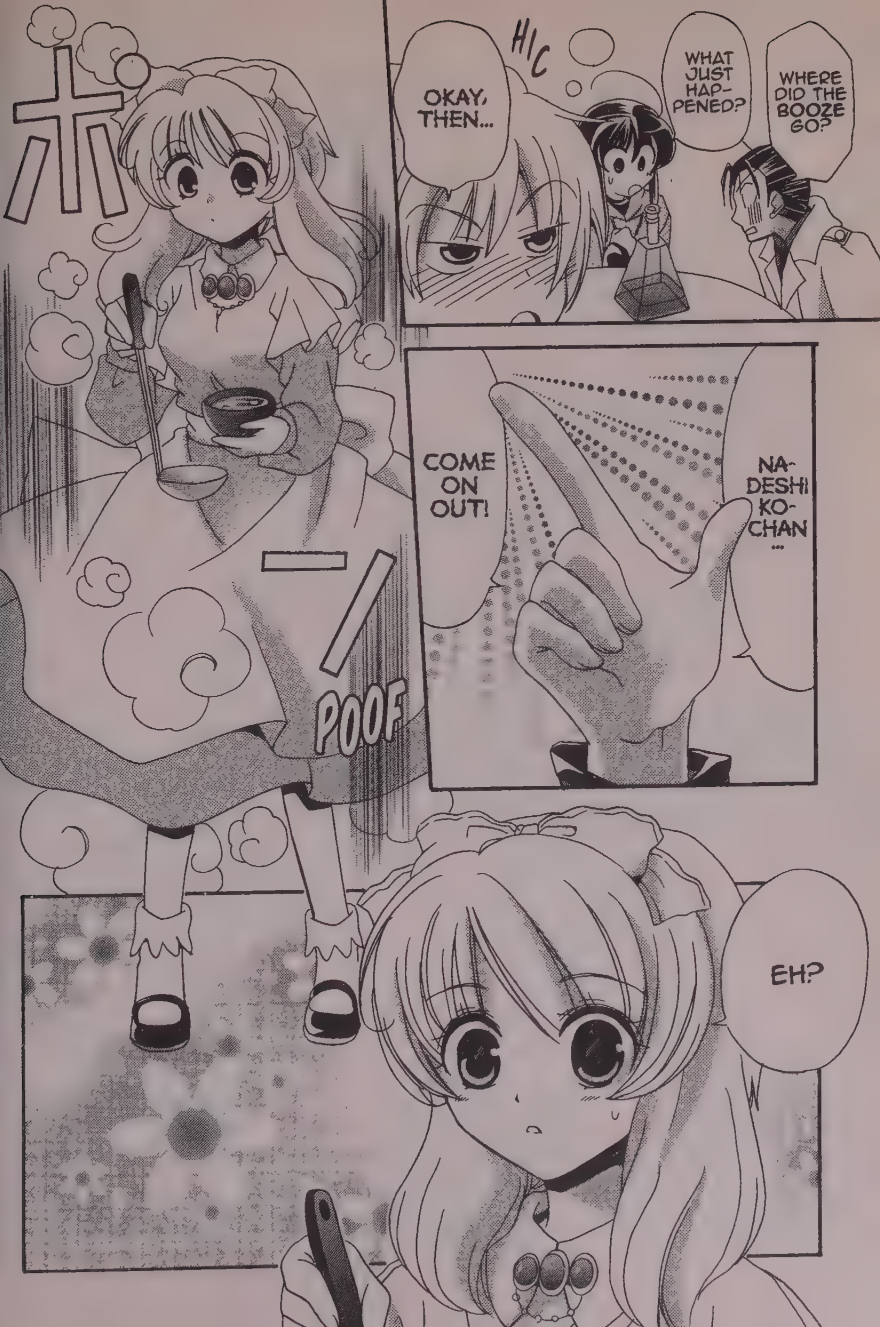

YOKO'S RECOLLECTION
SO, KARINA-SAN...
POUT
I ALMOST HAD HIM!
WHY DID YOU COME?
I'D LIKE YOU TO LOOK AT THIS.
UNFOLD
CAN I DRINK IT?
HEH HEH HEH...
N-NO!
GRAB
KARINA-SHAN, ISH THAT BOOZE?
HIC
THAT'S NOT IT.
LOOK INSIDE THE BOTTLE.

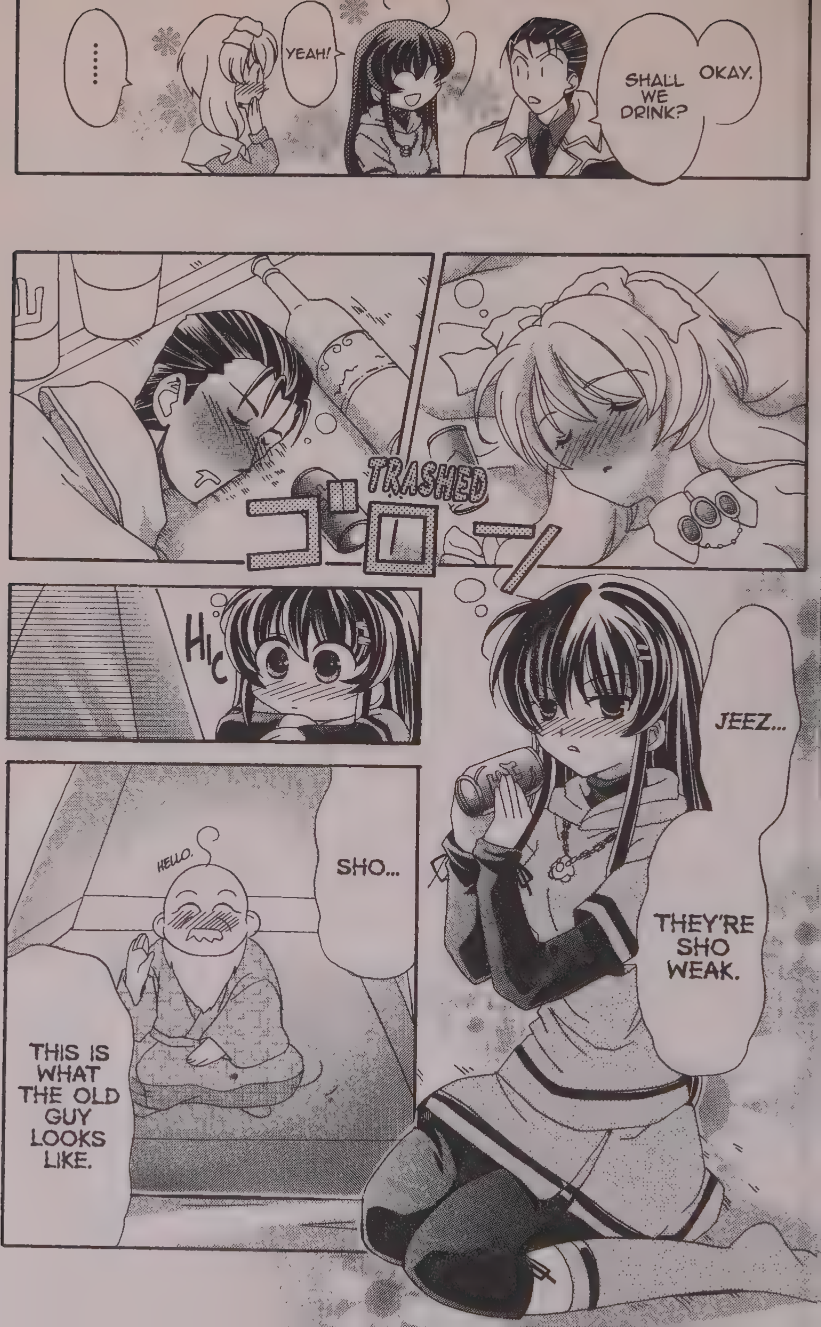

Zz
Zz
HEY...
IS HE REALLY DEAD?
I MEAN, HE'S SITTING PROPERLY.
YEAH.
BUT HIS HEART ISN'T BEATING, AND HE'S NOT BREATHING.
HEY, YOKO.
WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER FROM LAST NIGHT?
HMM, WELL...
I RECALL...

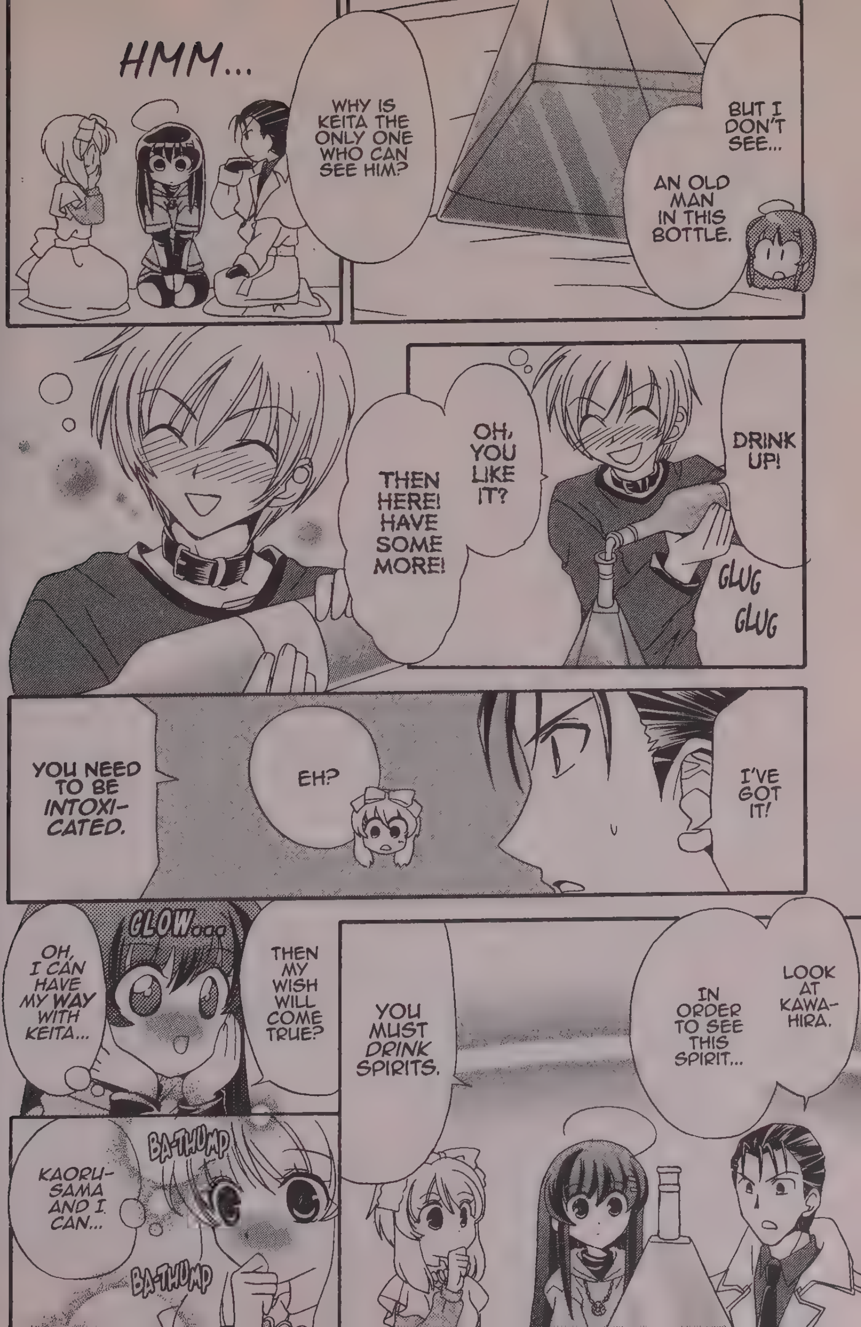

KAWA-HIRA...
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
EH?
JUST THE NICE OLD GUY IN THE BOTTLE.
HIC
ヒック
WHERE? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.
OHH, IF I GIFF YOU A DRINK, YOU'LL MAKE MY WISH COME TRUE?
COOL. THEN HERE YA GO!
GLUG
GLUG
UH...
タプ
BLUP
SLURP
シュウウ

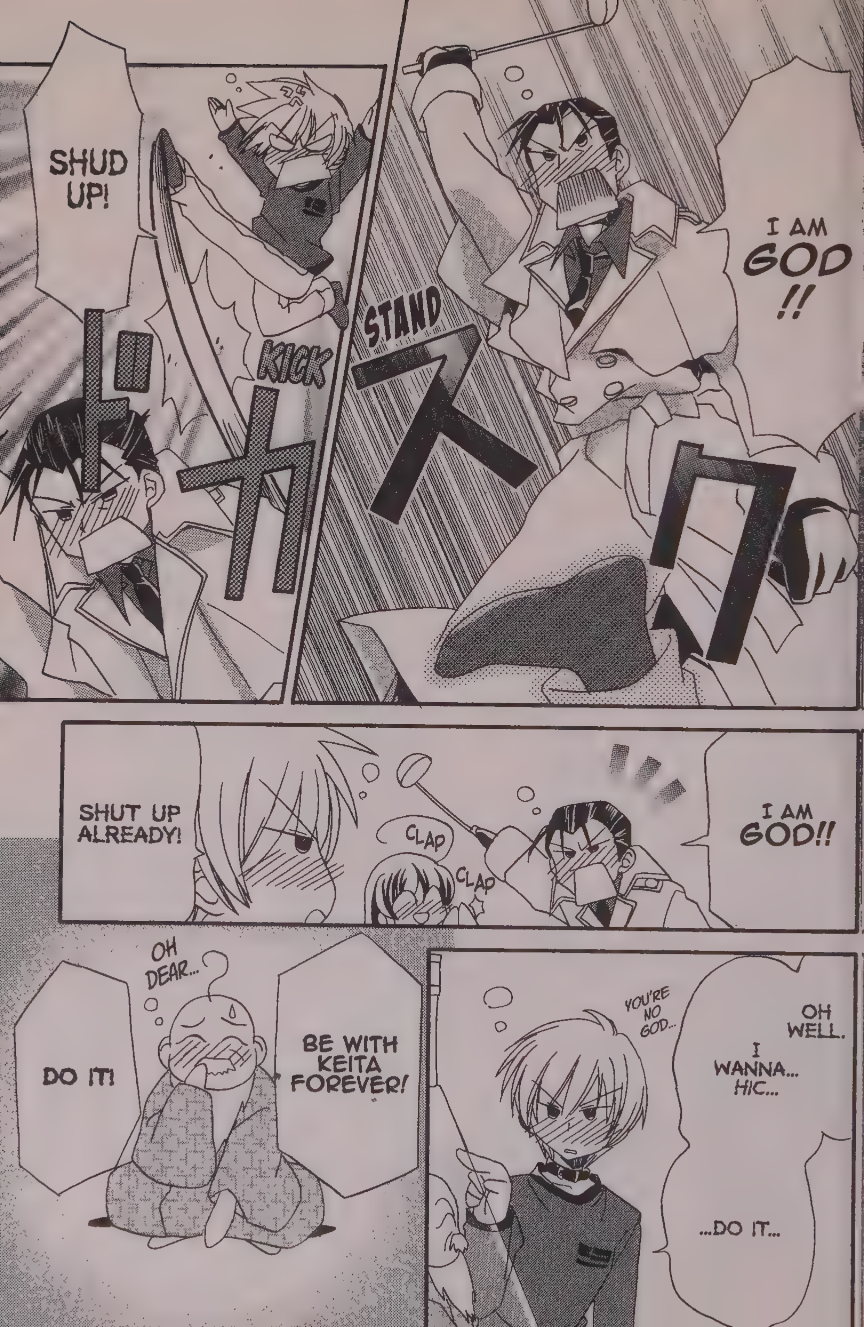

HMM...
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.
I SEE.
I HOPED IT WOULD APPEAR IF I HAD BROUGHT IT HERE.
SIGH
WHAT IS THIS THING?
WELL...
TINK
WHILE I WAS SEARCHING FOR A WIZARD, I RAN ACROSS...
THIS MAGICAL ITEM HE CREATED.
A WIZARD?
SO, OJIISAN...
YER DRUNK IN THERE, TOO?
HIC
YES.
HIS NAME IS--
CHEERS TO USH DRUNKS.
CLINK

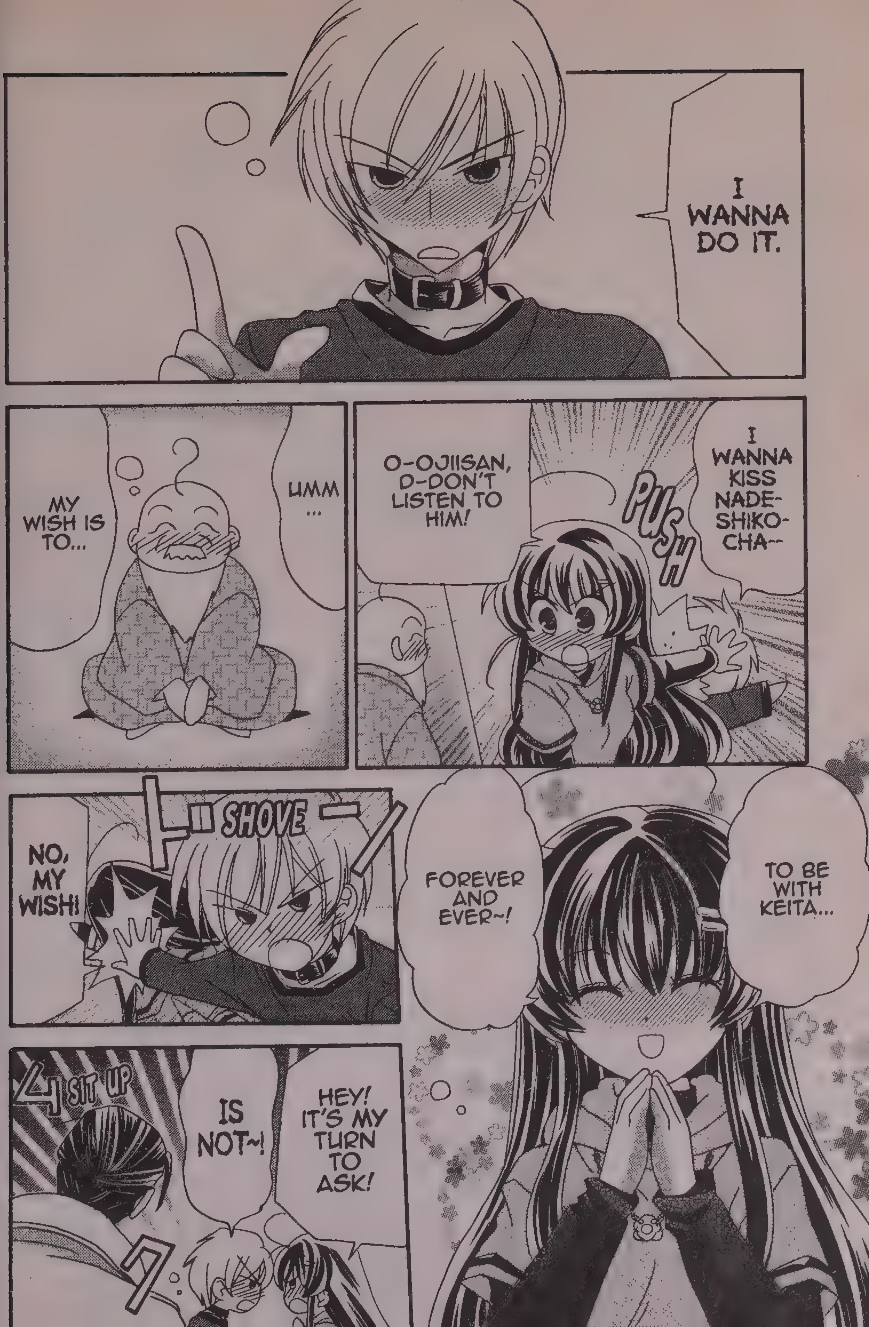

WOOHOO, SHE REALLY CAME!
EH?
WHY AM I HERE?
YOKO-SAN...
DID YOU USE YOUR *SHUKUCHI* JUST NOW?
NOPE.
HOUSE-MAID...
LA LA-LA LA!
HOUSE-MAID...
SO INSIDE THIS BOTTLE...
THERE IS AN ANCIENT SPIRIT WHO WILL GRANT WISHES?
YES, THAT'S WHAT I'VE LEARNED.
CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT YOU SUDDENLY APPEARED...
I BELIEVE MY *FINDINGS* ARE ACCURATE.

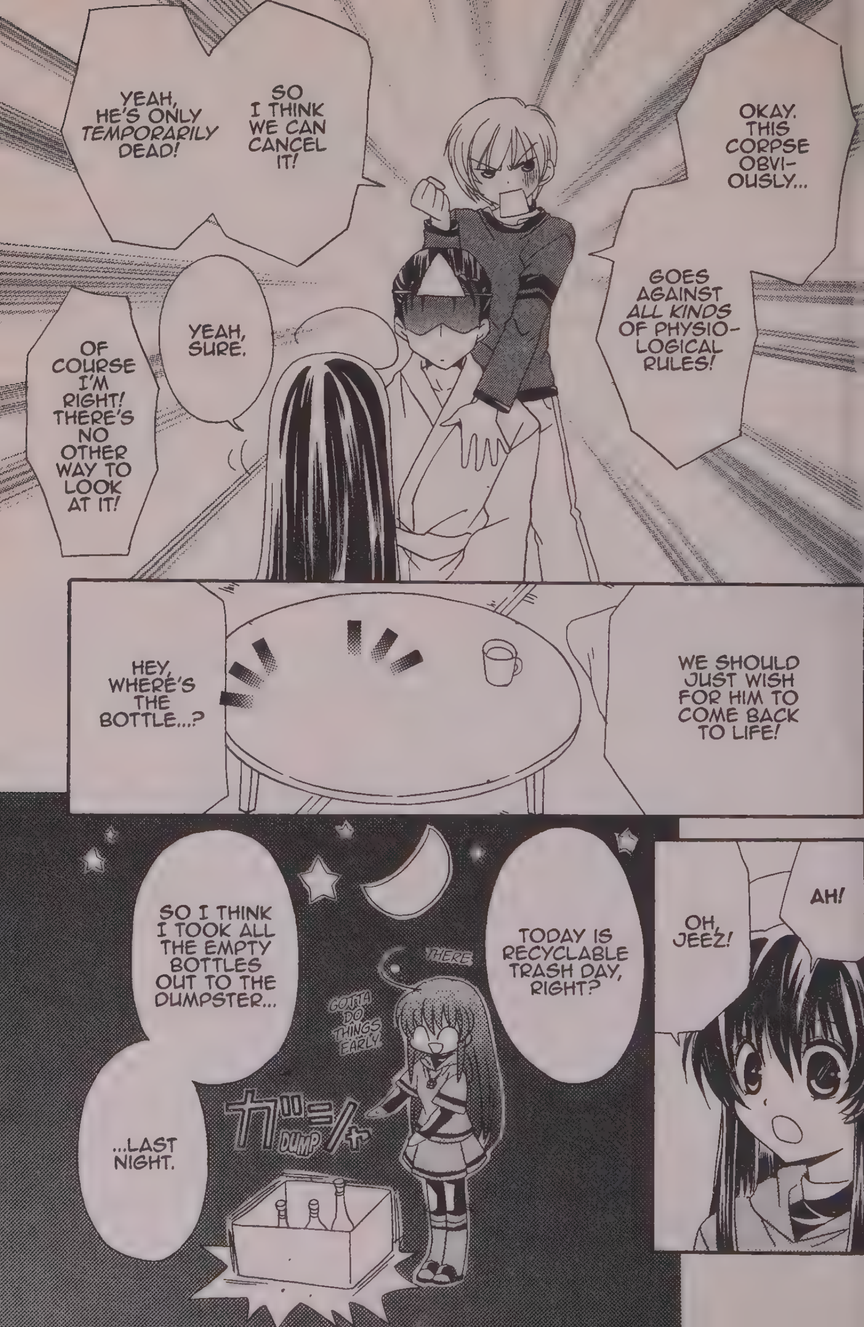

WHERE DID THE BOOZE GO?
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
HIC
OKAY, THEN...
NADESHIKO-CHAN...
COME ON OUT!
ホ
POOF
EH?

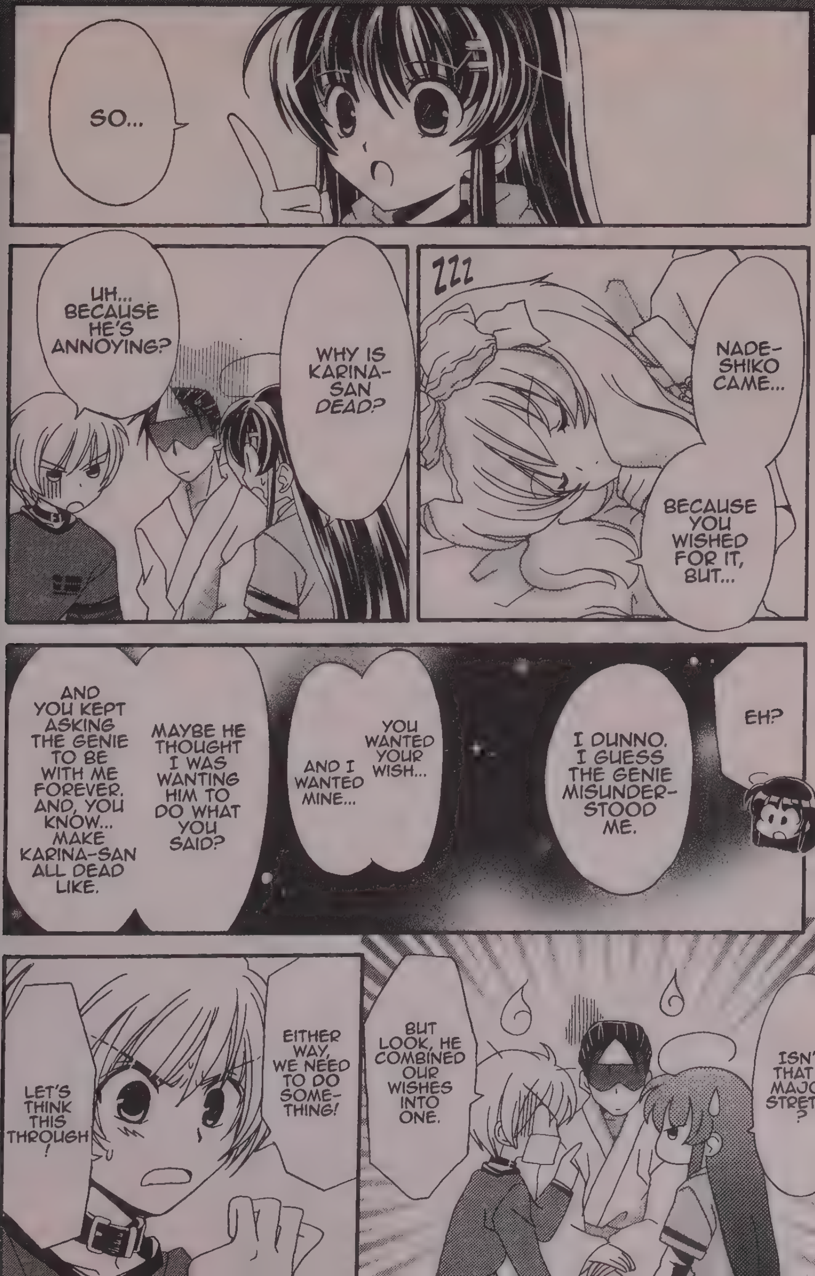

OKAY.
SHALL WE DRINK?
YEAH!
......
TRASHED
ゴローン
HIC
JEEZ...
THEY'RE SHO WEAK.
SHO...
HELLO.
THIS IS WHAT THE OLD GUY LOOKS LIKE.

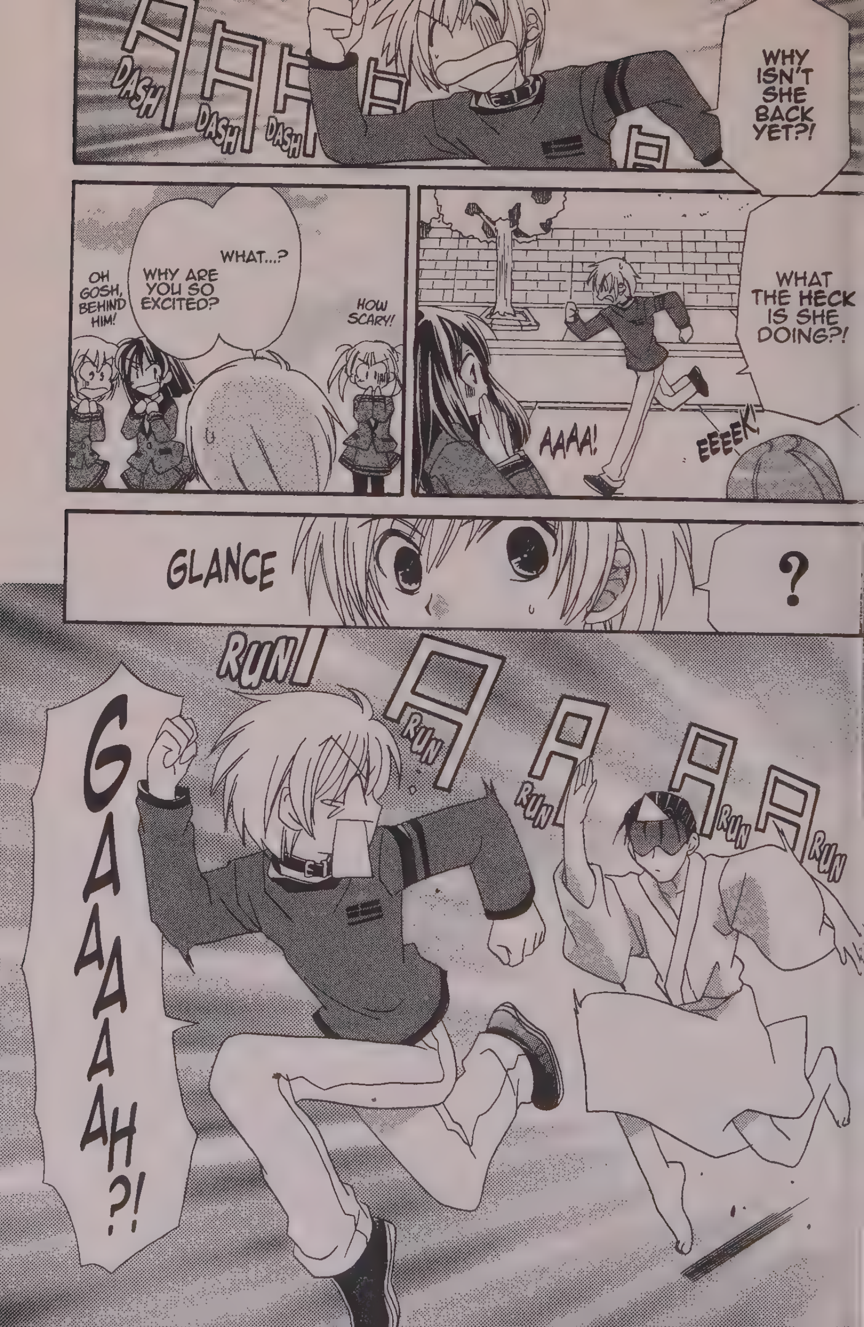

BUT I DON'T SEE...
AN OLD MAN IN THIS BOTTLE.
WHY IS KEITA THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE HIM?
HMM...
DRINK UP!
GLUG
GLUG
OH, YOU LIKE IT?
THEN HERE! HAVE SOME MORE!
I'VE GOT IT!
EH?
YOU NEED TO BE *INTOXICATED.*
LOOK AT KAWAHIRA.
IN ORDER TO SEE THIS SPIRIT...
YOU MUST *DRINK* SPIRITS.
THEN MY WISH WILL COME TRUE?
GLOW...
OH, I CAN HAVE MY *WAY* WITH KEITA...
BA-THUMP
KAORU-SAMA AND I CAN...
BA-THUMP

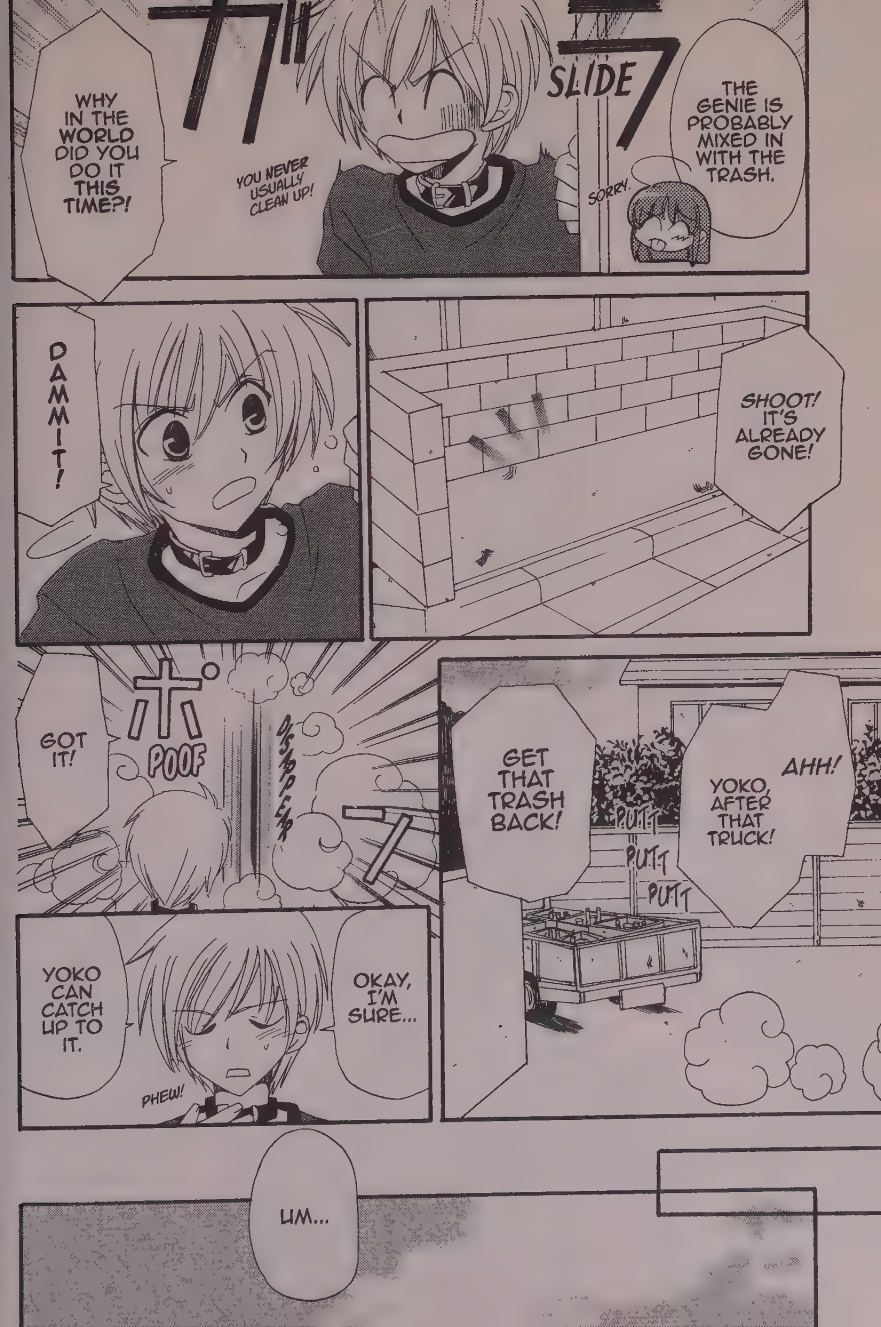

I AM GOD !!
STAND
スク
SHUD UP!
KICK
ドカ
I AM GOD!!
CLAP
CLAP
SHUT UP ALREADY!
OH WELL.
I WANNA... HIC...
...DO IT...
YOU'RE NO GOD...
BE WITH KEITA FOREVER!
OH DEAR...
DO IT!

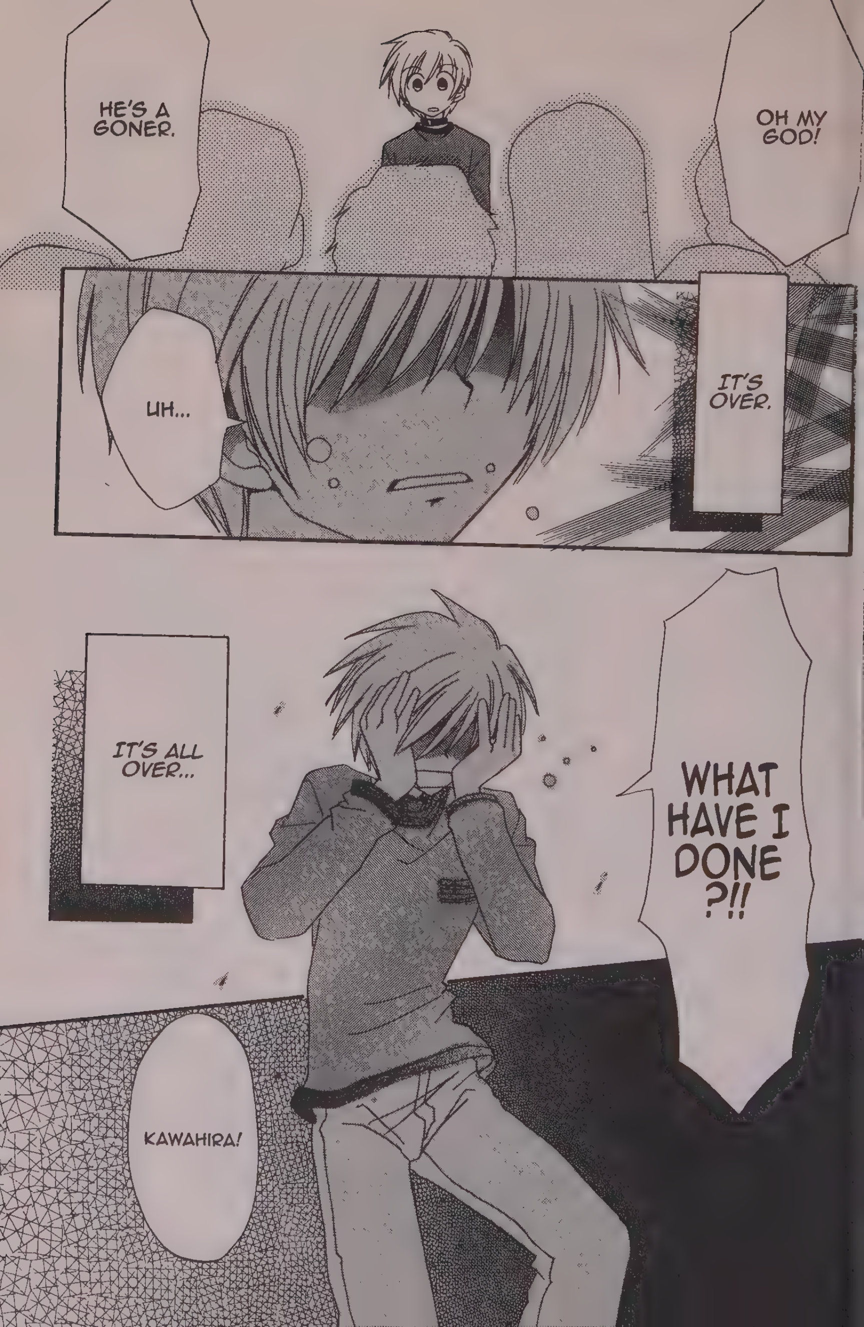

I WANNA DO IT.
I WANNA KISS NADESHIKO-CHA--
PUSH
O-OJIISAN, D-DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!
UMM ...
MY WISH IS TO...
TO BE WITH KEITA...
FOREVER AND EVER~!
SHOVE
NO, MY WISH!
HEY! IT'S MY TURN TO ASK!
IS NOT~!
SIT UP

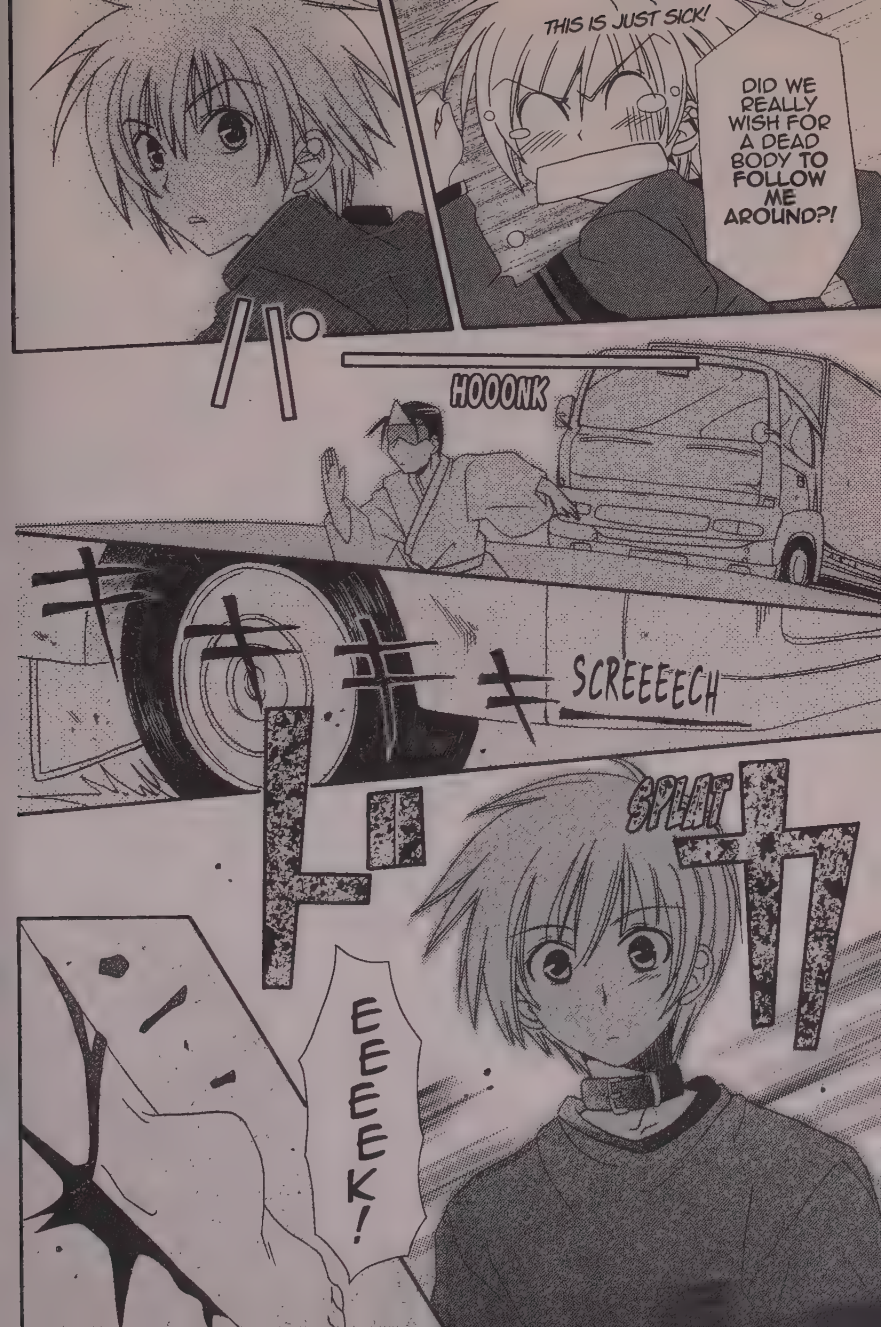

OKAY. THIS CORPSE OBVIOUSLY...
GOES AGAINST ALL KINDS OF PHYSIOLOGICAL RULES!
SO I THINK WE CAN CANCEL IT!
YEAH, HE'S ONLY TEMPORARILY DEAD!
YEAH, SURE.
OF COURSE I'M RIGHT! THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO LOOK AT IT!
WE SHOULD JUST WISH FOR HIM TO COME BACK TO LIFE!
HEY, WHERE'S THE BOTTLE...?
AH!
OH, JEEZ!
TODAY IS RECYCLABLE TRASH DAY, RIGHT?
THERE
GOTTA DO THINGS EARLY
SO I THINK I TOOK ALL THE EMPTY BOTTLES OUT TO THE DUMPSTER...
...LAST NIGHT.
ガシャ
DUMP

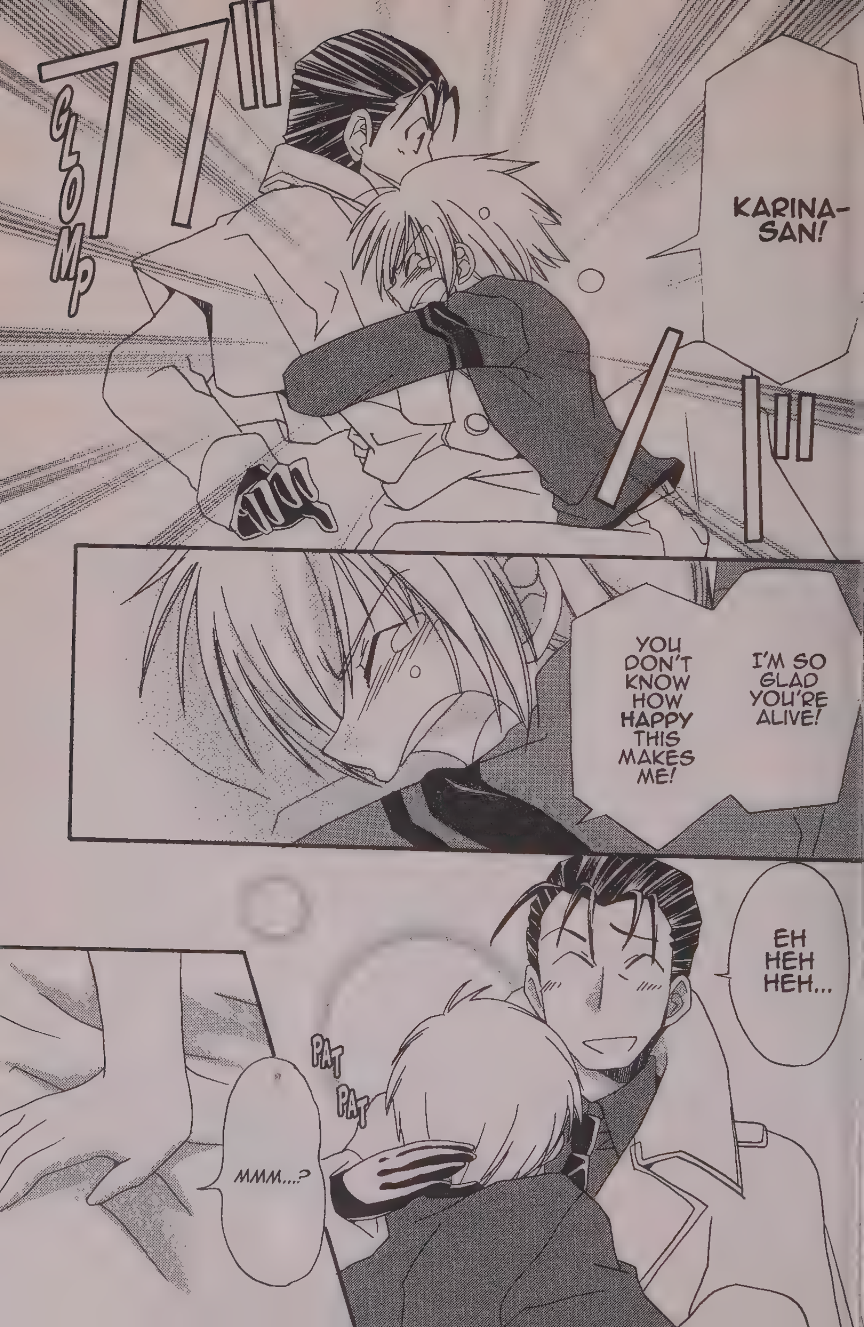

SO...
ZZZ
NADESHIKO CAME...
BECAUSE YOU WISHED FOR IT, BUT...
WHY IS KARINA-SAN DEAD?
UH... BECAUSE HE'S ANNOYING?
EH?
I DUNNO. I GUESS THE GENIE MISUNDERSTOOD ME.
YOU WANTED YOUR WISH...
AND I WANTED MINE...
MAYBE HE THOUGHT I WAS WANTING HIM TO DO WHAT YOU SAID?
AND YOU KEPT ASKING THE GENIE TO BE WITH ME FOREVER. AND, YOU KNOW... MAKE KARINA-SAN ALL DEAD LIKE.
ISN'T THAT A MAJOR STRETCH?
BUT LOOK, HE COMBINED OUR WISHES INTO ONE.
EITHER WAY, WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING!
LET'S THINK THIS THROUGH!

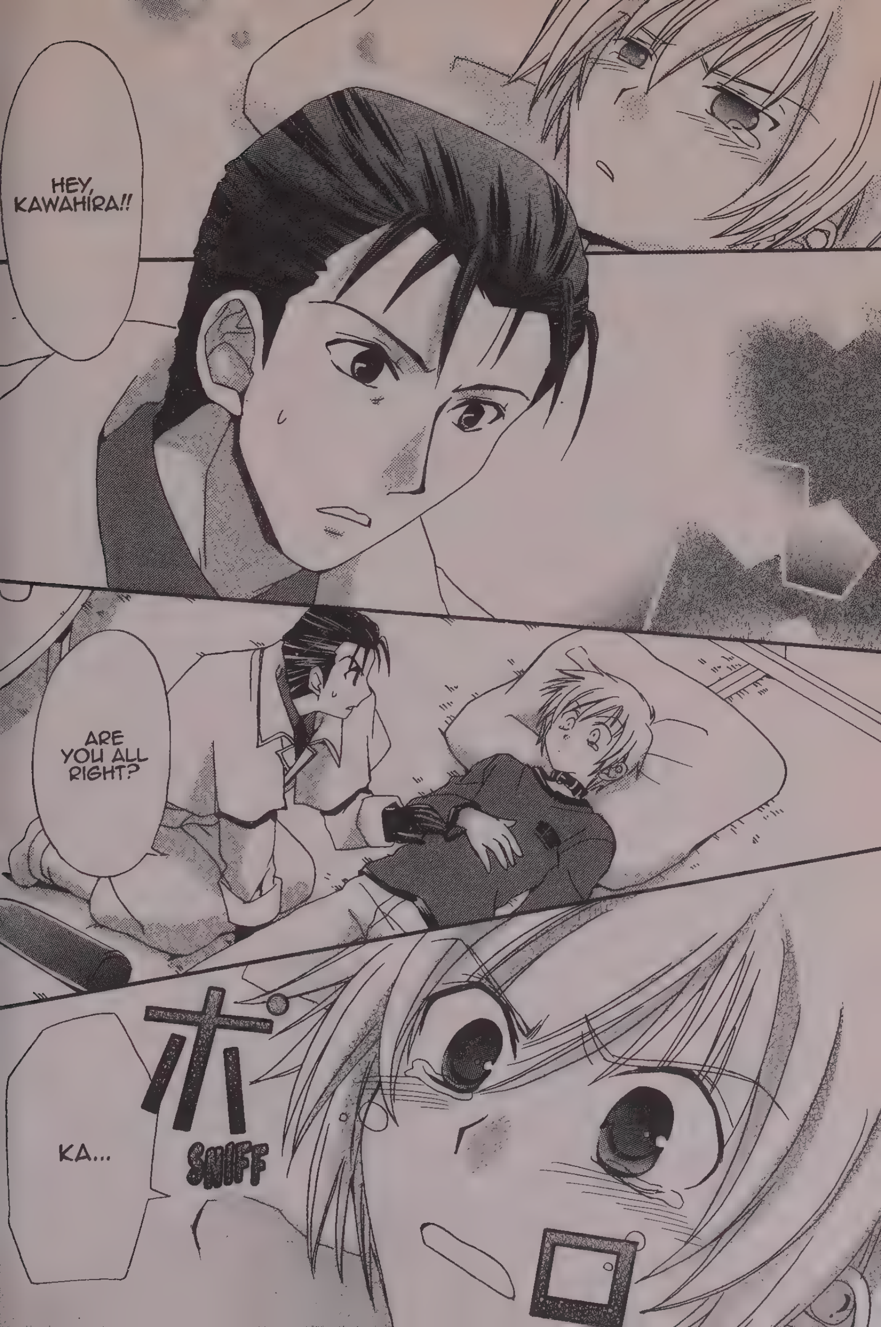

WHY ISN'T SHE BACK YET?!
DASH
DASH
DASH
WHAT THE HECK IS SHE DOING?!
EEEEK!
AAAA!
HOW SCARY!
WHAT...? WHY ARE YOU SO EXCITED?
OH GOSH, BEHIND HIM!
?
GLANCE
RUN
RUN
RUN
RUN
RUN
GAAAAAH?!

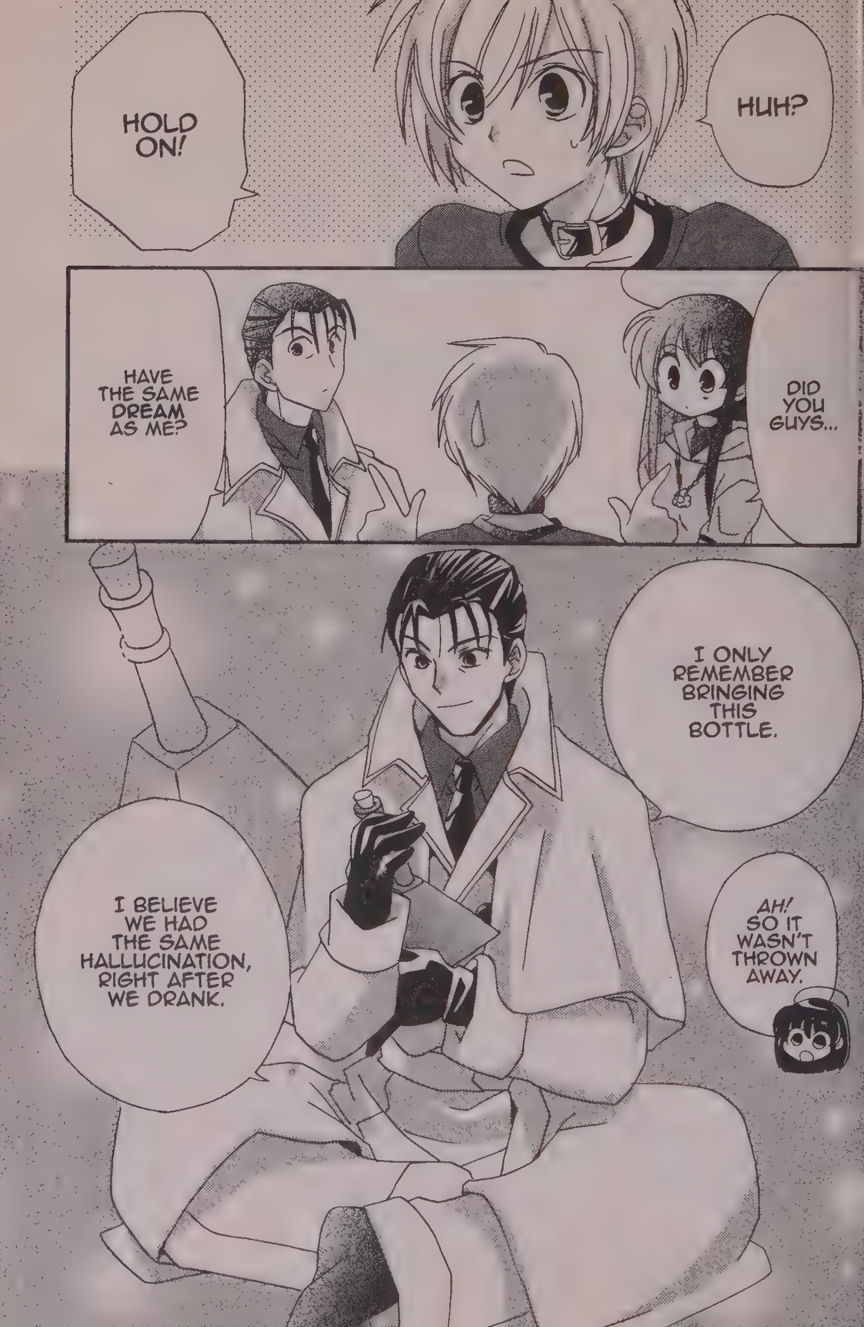

THE GENIE IS PROBABLY MIXED IN WITH THE TRASH.
SORRY.
SLIDE
YOU NEVER USUALLY CLEAN UP!
WHY IN THE WORLD DID YOU DO IT THIS TIME?!
SHOOT! IT'S ALREADY GONE!
DAMMIT!
AHH!
YOKO, AFTER THAT TRUCK!
GET THAT TRASH BACK!
PUTT
PUTT
PUTT
DISAPPEAR
POOF
GOT IT!
OKAY, I'M SURE...
YOKO CAN CATCH UP TO IT.
PHEW!
UM...

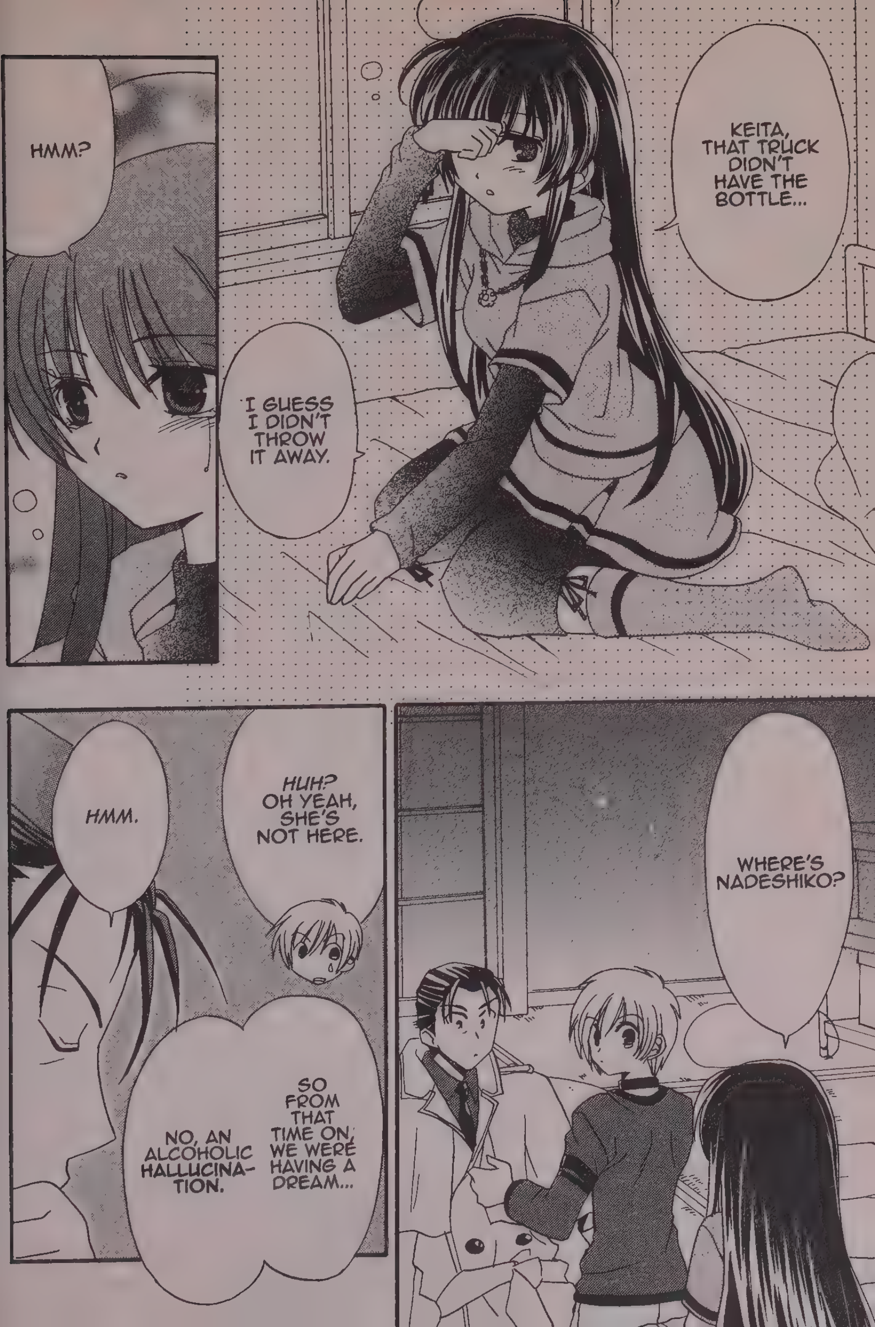

OH MY GOD!
HE'S A GONER.
IT'S OVER.
UH...
WHAT HAVE I DONE?!!
IT'S ALL OVER...
KAWAHIRA!

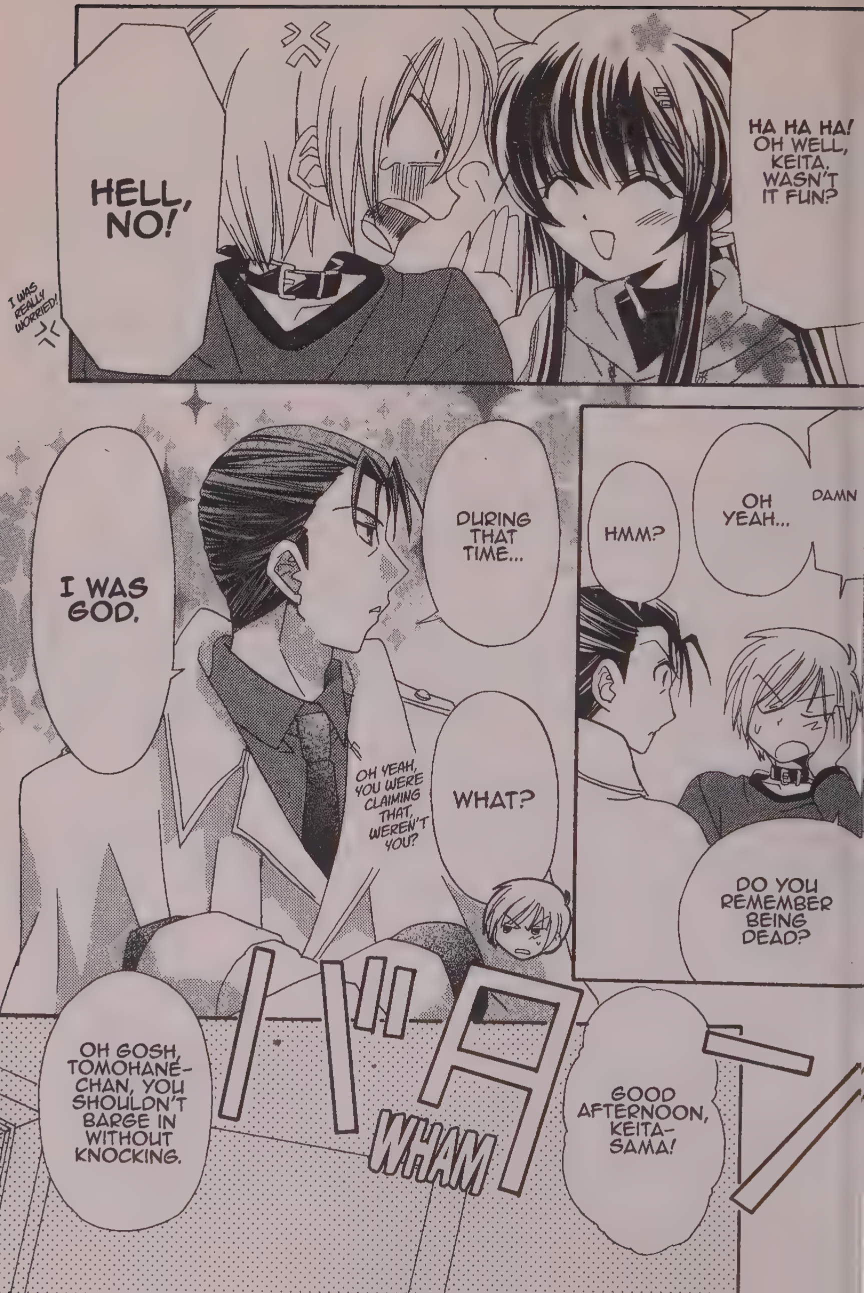

THIS IS JUST SICK!
DID WE REALLY WISH FOR A DEAD BODY TO FOLLOW ME AROUND?!
HOOONK
キキキキ
SCREEEECH
SPLAT
EEEEEK!

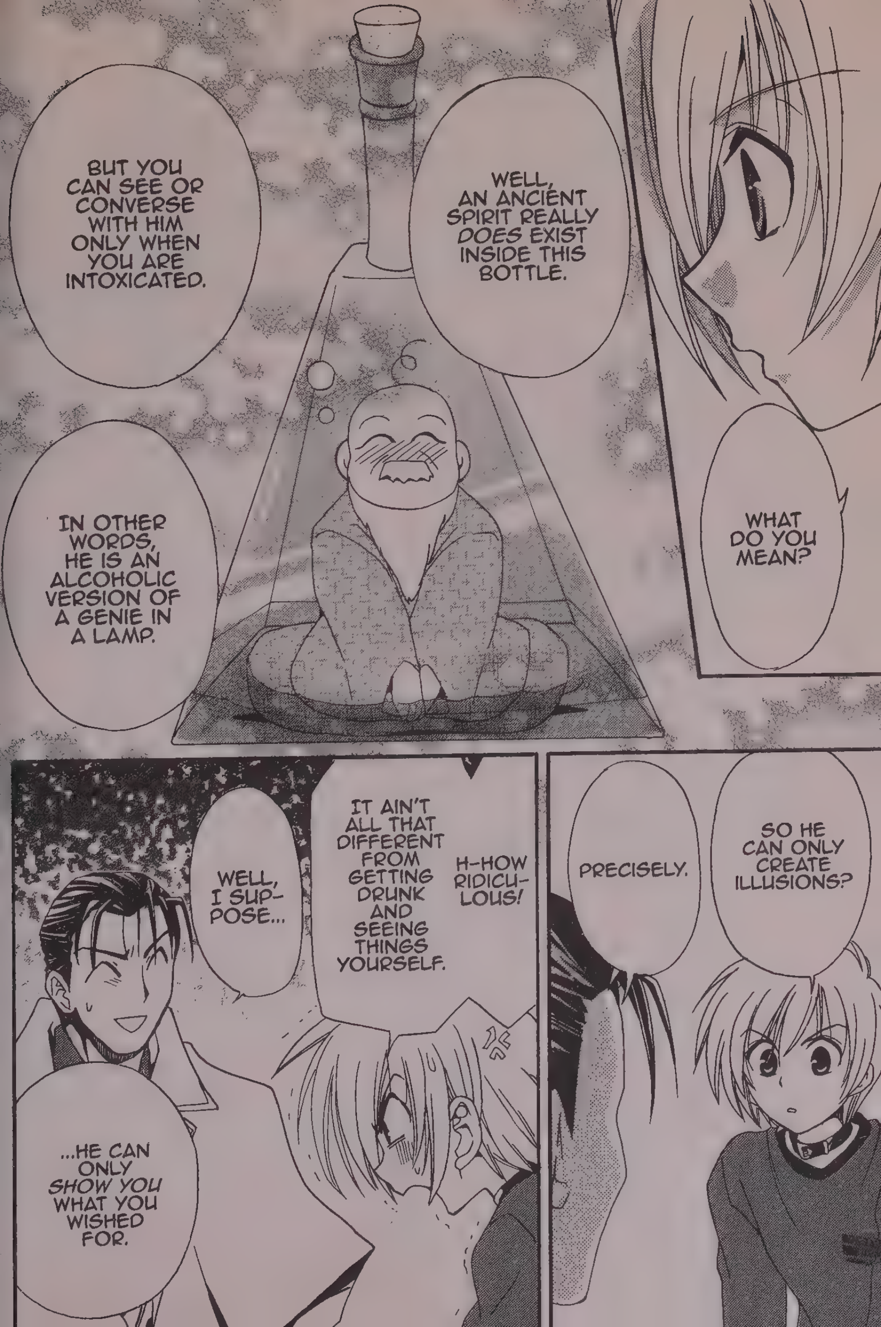

KARINA-SAN!
GLOMP
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE!
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW HAPPY THIS MAKES ME!
EH HEH HEH...
PAT PAT
MMM...?

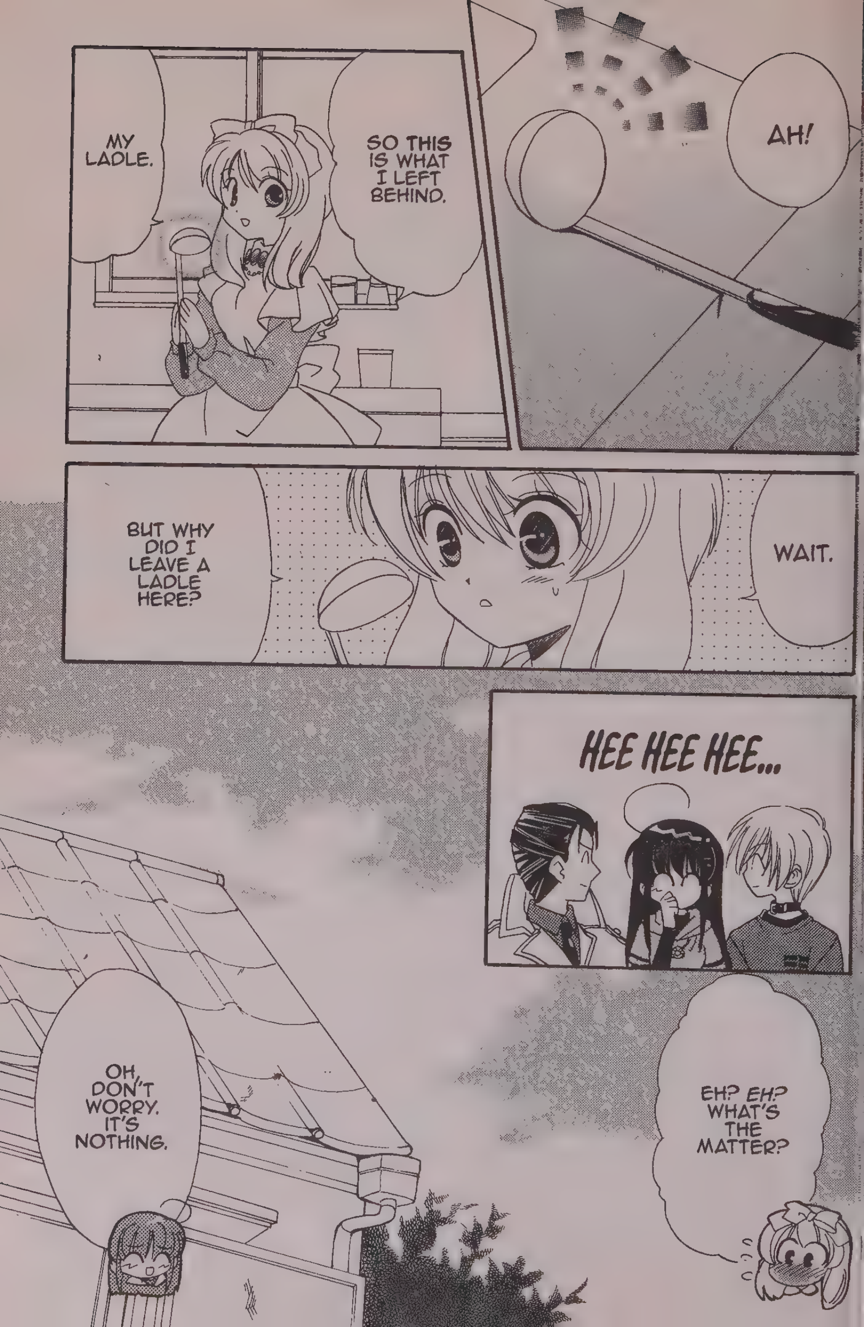

HEY, KAWAHIRA!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ポ
SNIFF
KA...

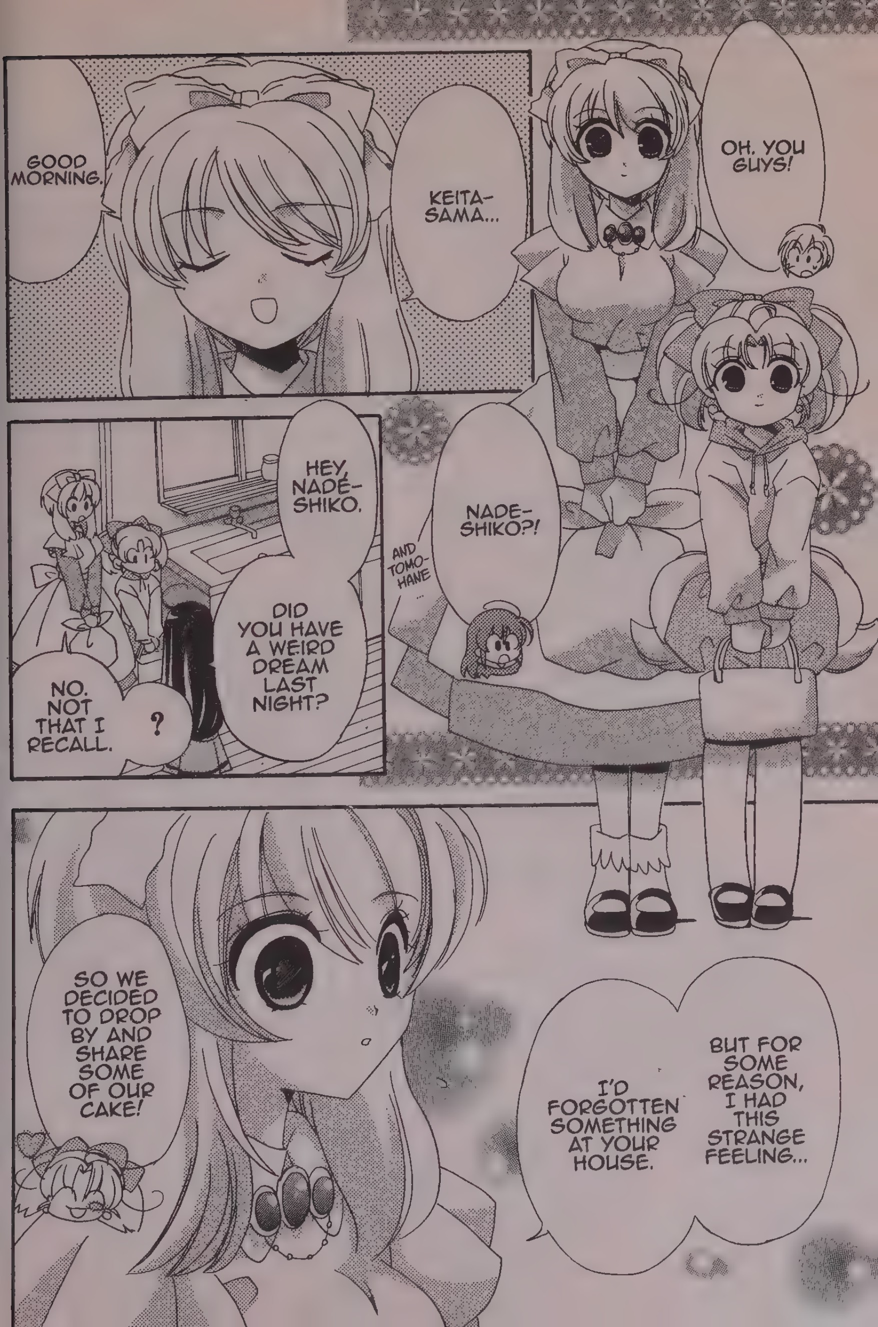

HUH?
HOLD ON!
DID YOU GUYS...
HAVE THE SAME DREAM AS ME?
I ONLY REMEMBER BRINGING THIS BOTTLE.
AH! SO IT WASN'T THROWN AWAY.
I BELIEVE WE HAD THE SAME HALLUCINATION, RIGHT AFTER WE DRANK.

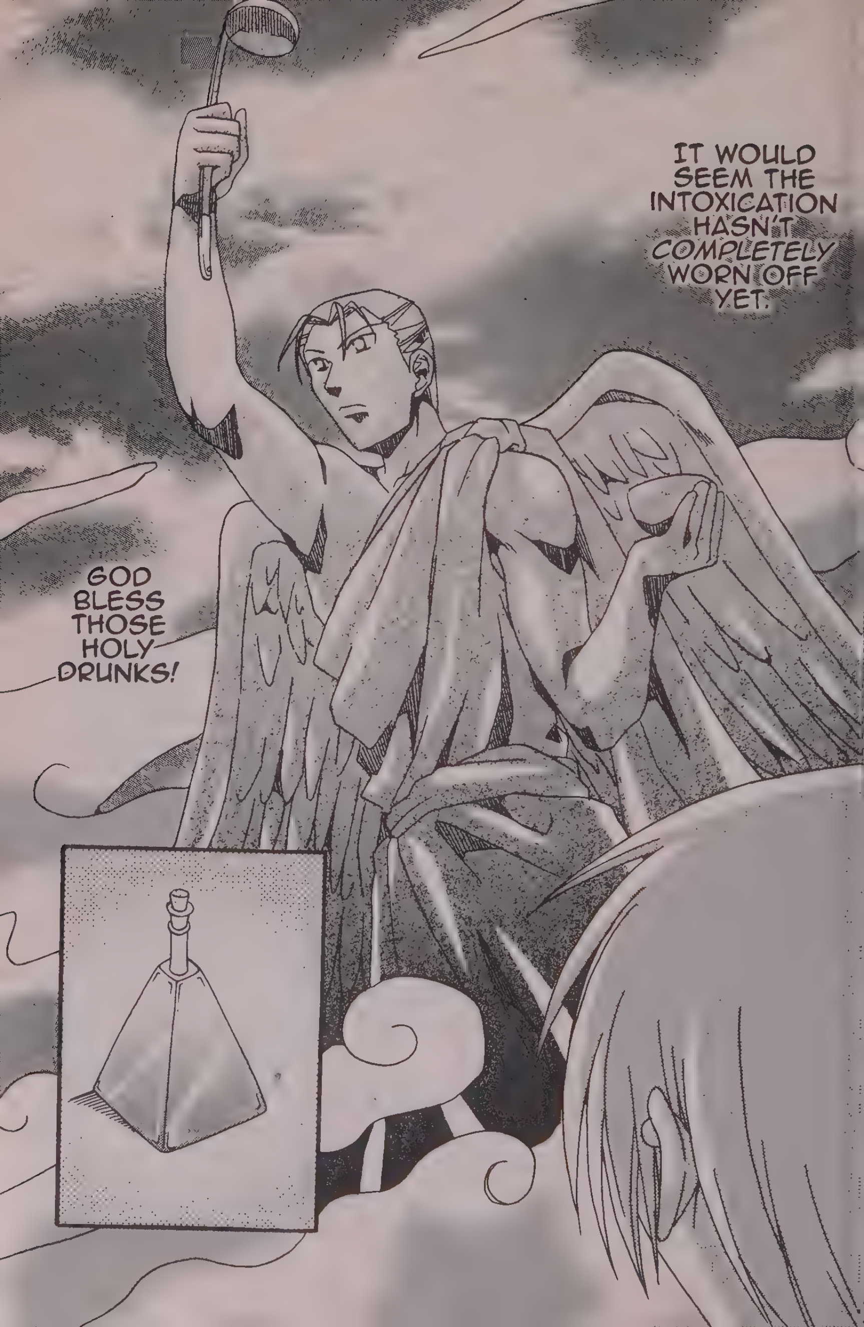

KEITA, THAT TRUCK DIDN'T HAVE THE BOTTLE...
I GUESS I DIDN'T THROW IT AWAY.
HMM?
WHERE'S NADESHIKO?
HUH? OH YEAH, SHE'S NOT HERE.
HMM.
SO FROM THAT TIME ON, WE WERE HAVING A DREAM...
NO, AN ALCOHOLIC HALLUCINATION.

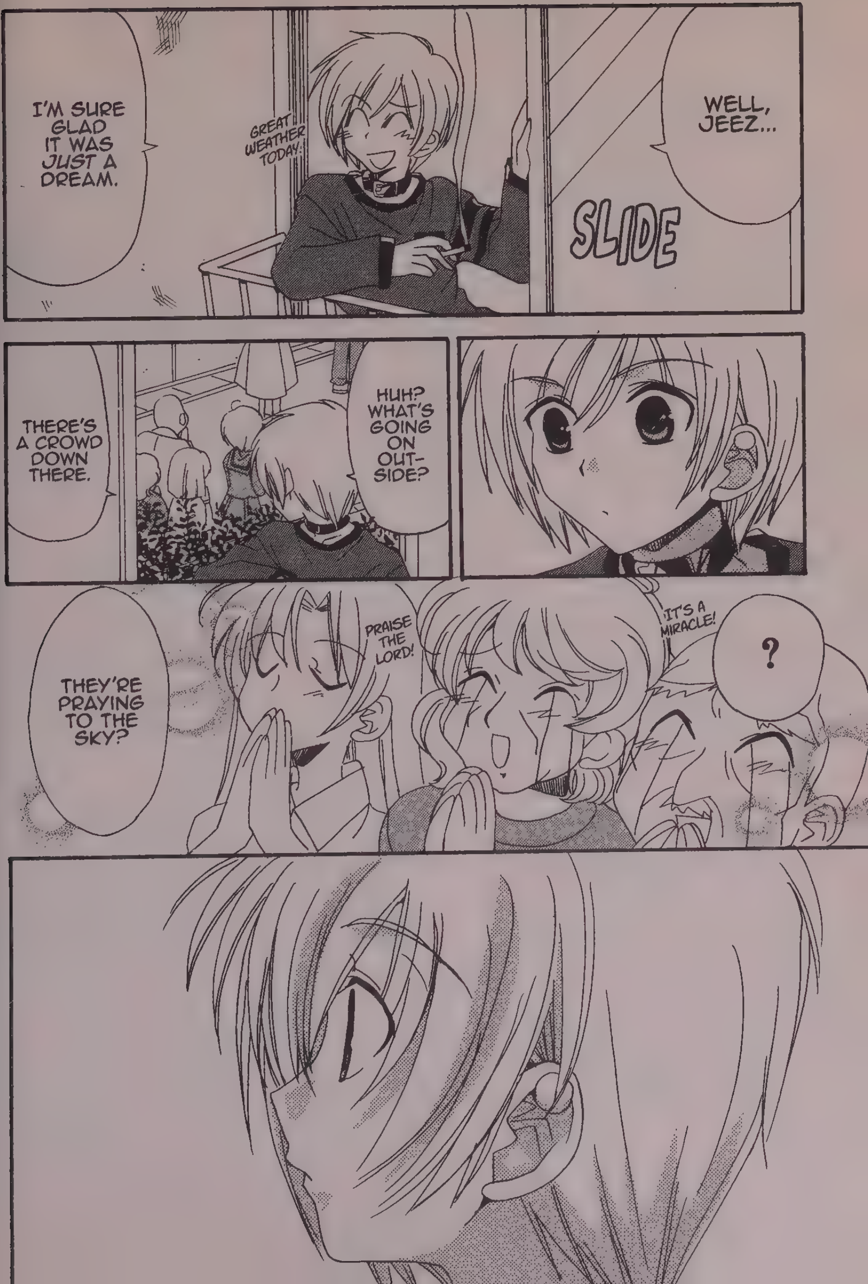

HA HA HA! OH WELL, KEITA, WASN'T IT FUN?
HELL, NO!
I WAS REALLY WORRIED!
DAMN
OH YEAH...
HMM?
DO YOU REMEMBER BEING DEAD?
DURING THAT TIME...
I WAS GOD.
WHAT?
OH YEAH, YOU WERE CLAIMING THAT, WEREN'T YOU?
GOOD AFTERNOON, KEITA-SAMA!
WHAM
OH GOSH, TOMOHANE-CHAN, YOU SHOULDN'T BARGE IN WITHOUT KNOCKING.

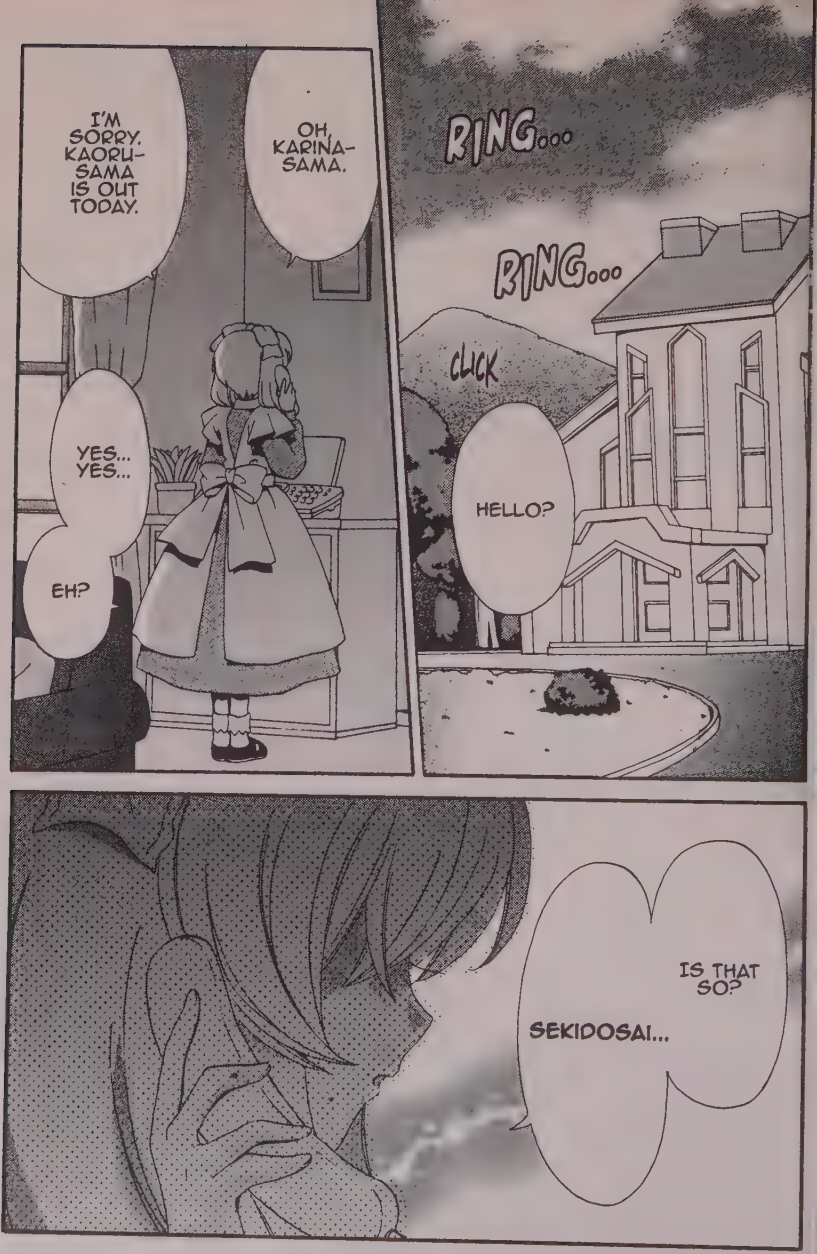

WELL, AN ANCIENT SPIRIT REALLY *DOES* EXIST INSIDE THIS BOTTLE.
BUT YOU CAN SEE OR CONVERSE WITH HIM ONLY WHEN YOU ARE INTOXICATED.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IN OTHER WORDS, HE IS AN ALCOHOLIC VERSION OF A GENIE IN A LAMP.
SO HE CAN ONLY CREATE ILLUSIONS?
PRECISELY.
IT AIN'T ALL THAT DIFFERENT FROM GETTING DRUNK AND SEEING THINGS YOURSELF.
H-HOW RIDICULOUS!
WELL, I SUPPOSE...
...HE CAN ONLY *SHOW YOU* WHAT YOU WISHED FOR.


AH!
SO THIS IS WHAT I LEFT BEHIND.
MY LADLE.
WAIT.
BUT WHY DID I LEAVE A LADLE HERE?
HEE HEE HEE...
EH? *EH?* WHAT'S THE MATTER?
OH, DON'T WORRY. IT'S NOTHING.


OH, YOU GUYS!
NADE-SHIKO?!
AND TOMO-HANE...
KEITA-SAMA...
GOOD MORNING.
HEY, NADÉ-SHIKO.
DID YOU HAVE A WEIRD DREAM LAST NIGHT?
NO. NOT THAT I RECALL.
?
BUT FOR SOME REASON, I HAD THIS STRANGE FEELING...
I'D FORGOTTEN SOMETHING AT YOUR HOUSE.
SO WE DECIDED TO DROP BY AND SHARE SOME OF OUR CAKE!


IT WOULD SEEM THE INTOXICATION HASN'T COMPLETELY WORN OFF YET.
GOD BLESS THOSE HOLY DRUNKS!


WELL, JEEZ...
SLIDE
GREAT WEATHER TODAY!
I'M SURE GLAD IT WAS JUST A DREAM.
HUH? WHAT'S GOING ON OUT-SIDE?
THERE'S A CROWD DOWN THERE.
?
IT'S A MIRACLE!
PRAISE THE LORD!
THEY'RE PRAYING TO THE SKY?


RING...
RING...
CLICK
HELLO?
OH, KARINA-SAMA.
I'M SORRY. KAORU-SAMA IS OUT TODAY.
YES... YES...
EH?
IS THAT SO?
SEKIDOSAI...

FROM THE CREATOR

MAMIZU ARISAWA

HELLO, THIS IS ARISAWA.

THE MANGA IS ALREADY UP TO VOLUME 3, AND KAORU HAS FINALLY APPEARED!

MATSUZAWA-SAN DRAWS THIS MANGA WITH FUNNY OR IMPORTANT DETAILS EVEN IN LITTLE CORNERS. PERSONALLY, I REALLY ENJOY THOSE LITTLE DETAILS. I GET A BIG SMILE ON MY FACE WHENEVER I SEE THEM.

AS I READ THIS MANGA, I THOUGHT, "OHH, I WAS THINKING LIKE THIS IN THE EARLIER VOLUMES OF MY LIGHT NOVEL." IT MADE ME REMEMBER EARLIER DAYS AND I WANTED TO RE-READ MY OLDER VOLUMES.

BUT.

THIS MANGA HAS BECOME BETTER THAN THE ORIGINAL.

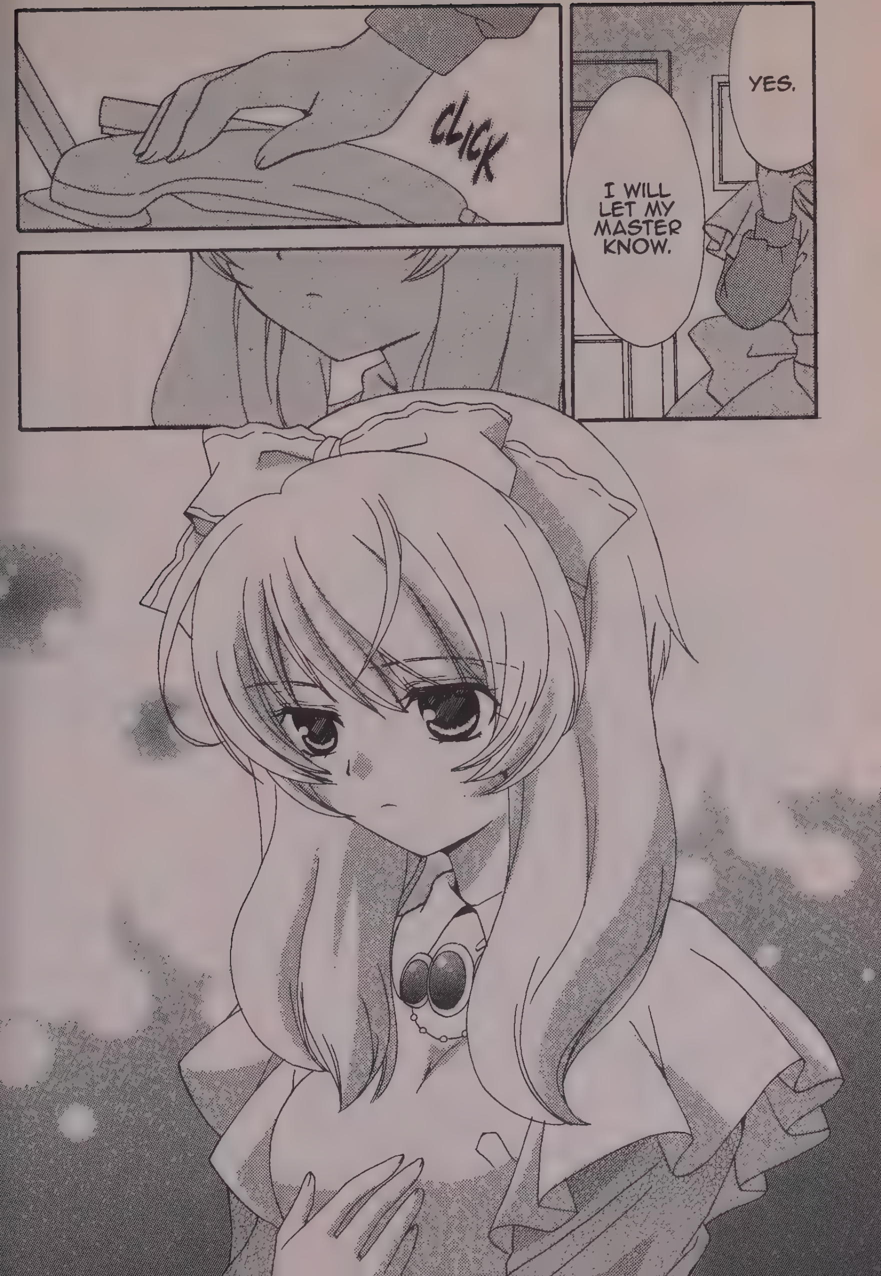
THERE WILL BE MORE MANGA TO COME, SO PLEASE READ THIS SERIES!

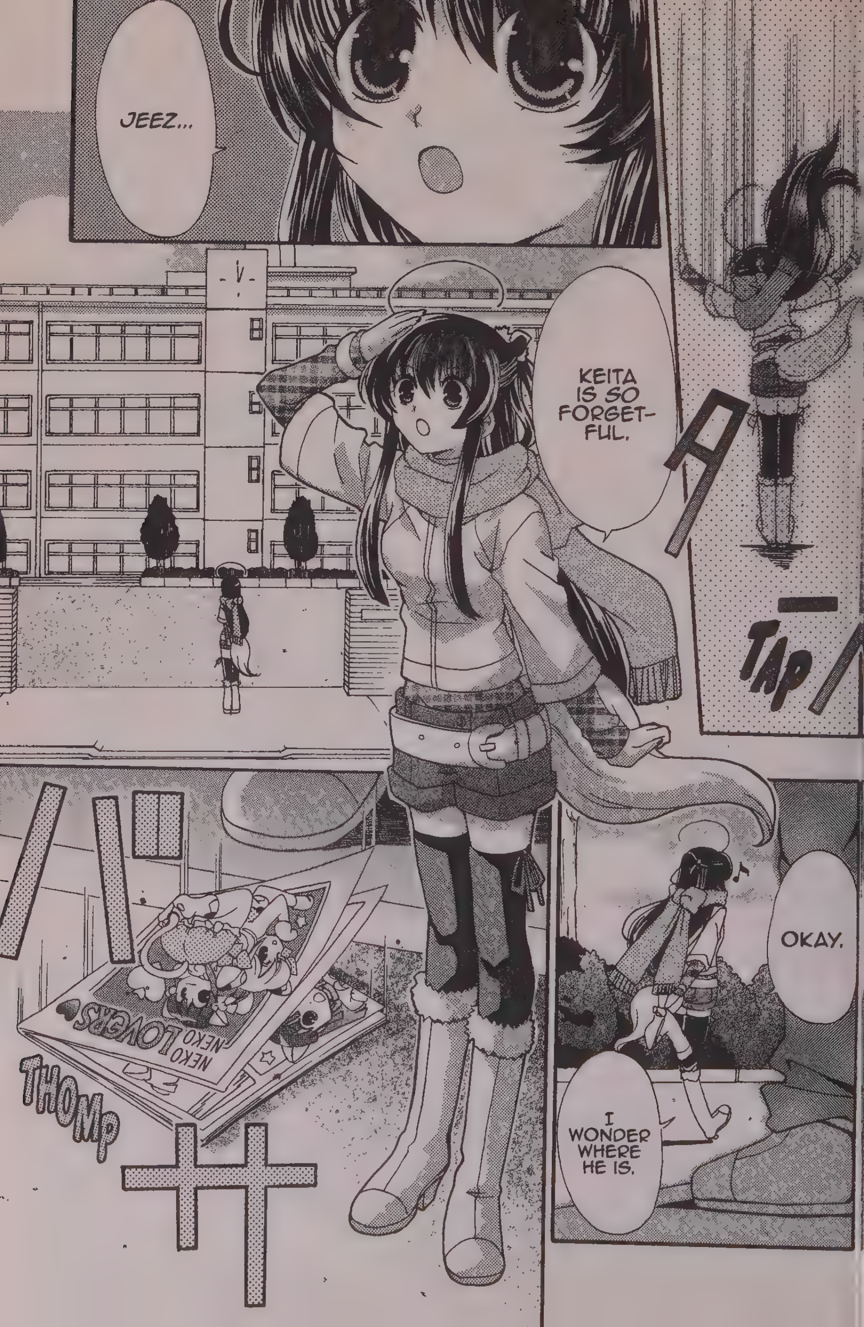
FROM THE AUTHOR, WHO HAS DEVELOPED BUDDING FEELINGS FOR ORANGUTANS.

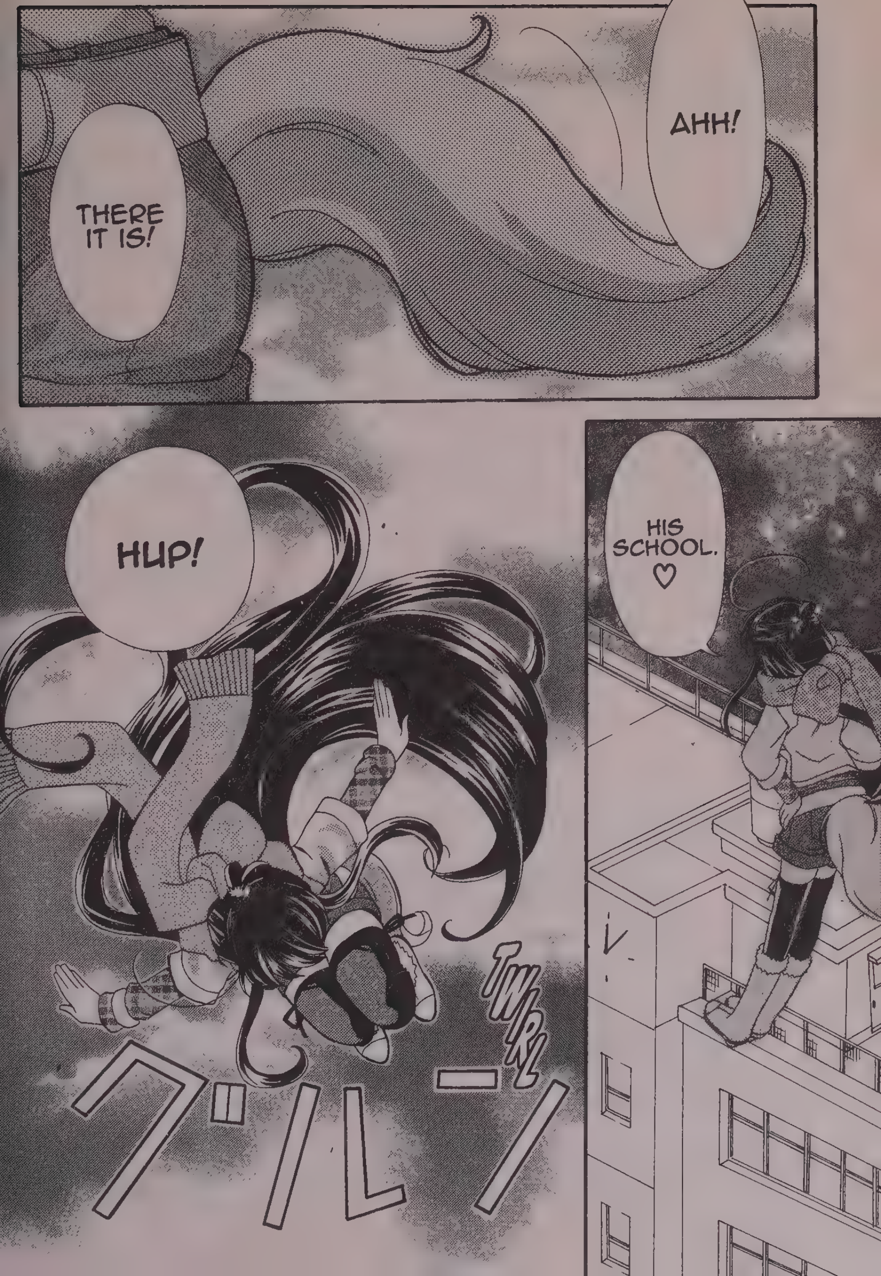
I AM SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING A TRIP TO SINGAPORE TO PLAY WITH ORANGUTANS. (LOL!)

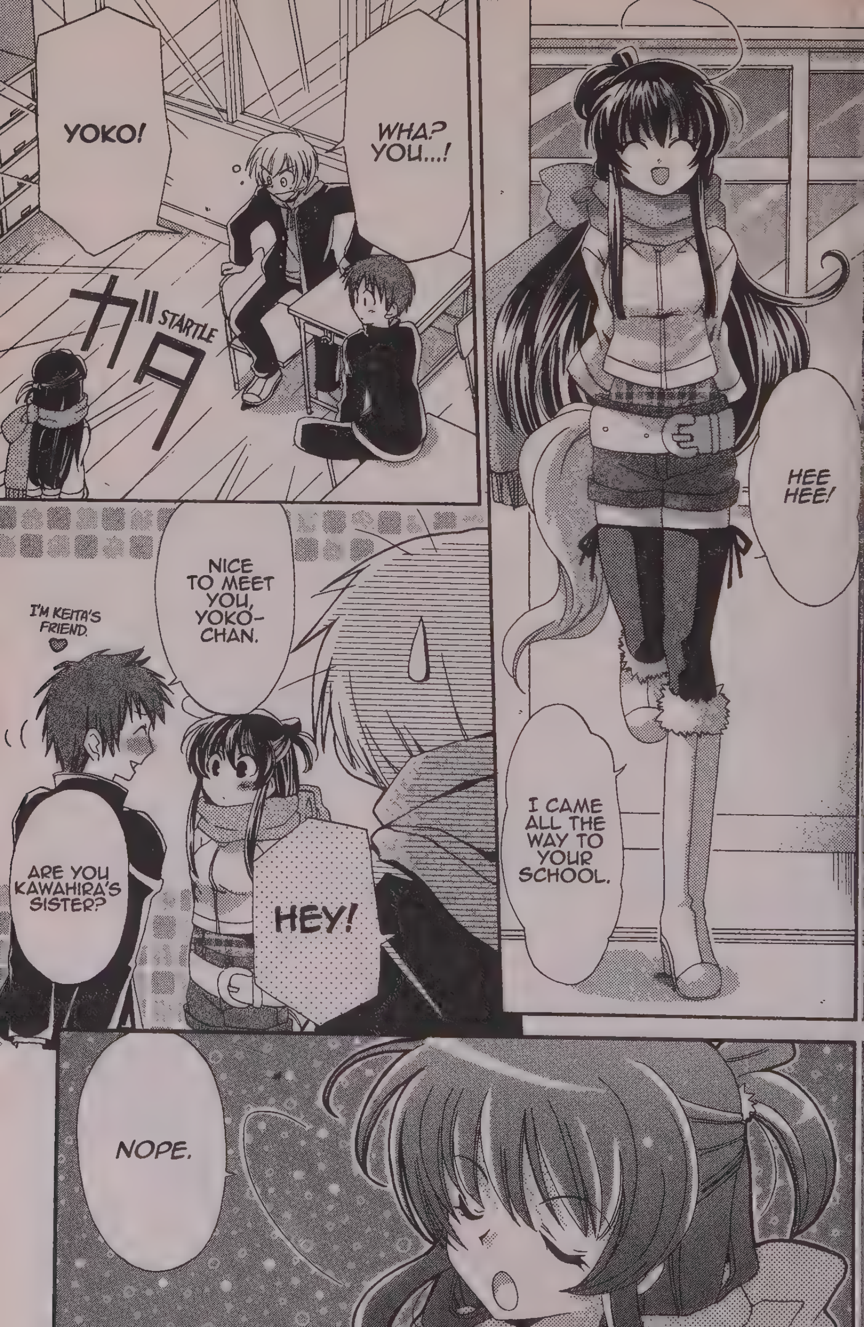
Step.14

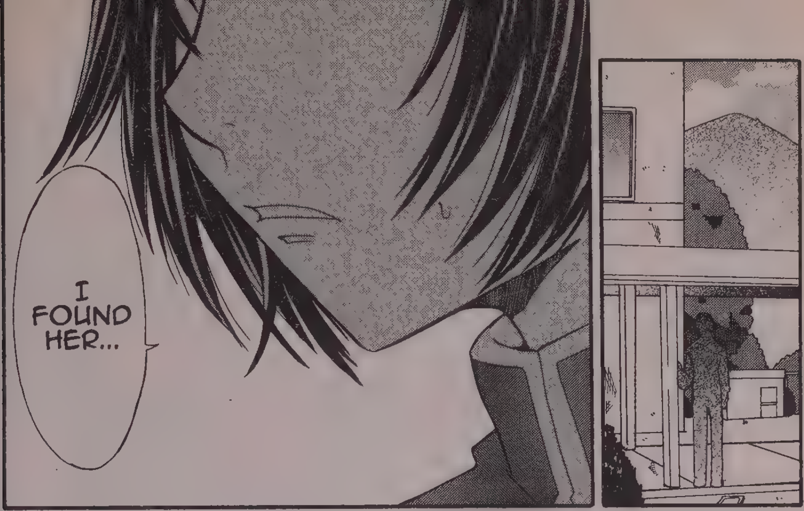
Fluffy Tail Serenade: Part 1

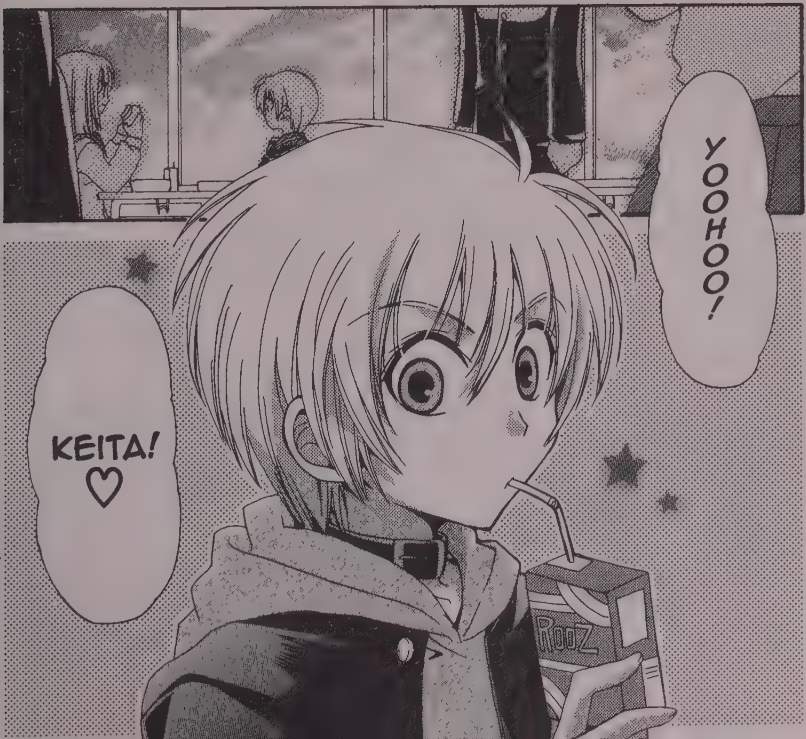

YES.
I WILL LET MY MASTER KNOW.
CLICK

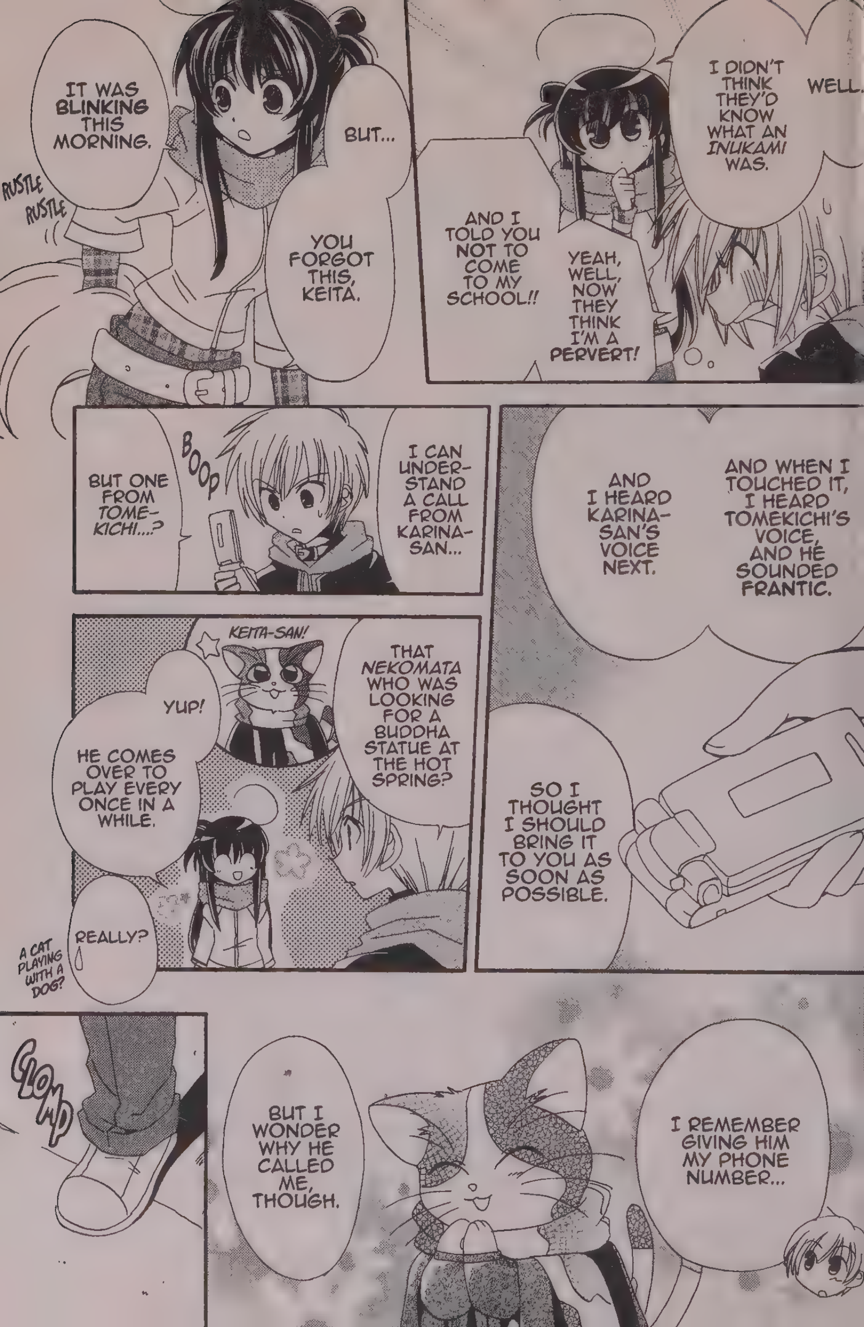

JEEZ...
TAP
KEITA IS SO FORGETFUL.
NEKO NEKO LOVERS
THOMP
OKAY.
I WONDER WHERE HE IS.

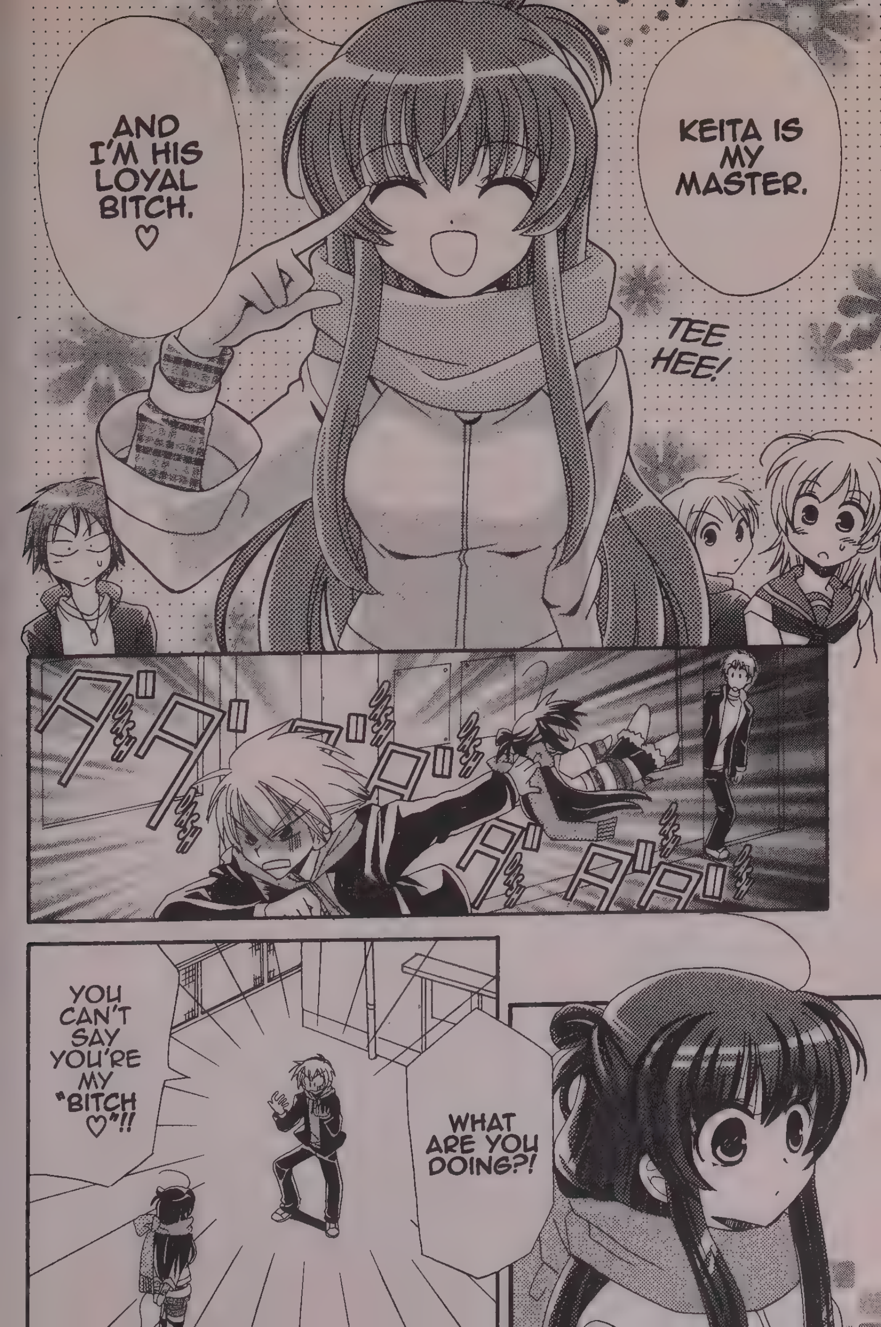

AHH!
THERE IT IS!
HIS SCHOOL. ♡
HUP!
TWIRL
グルーン

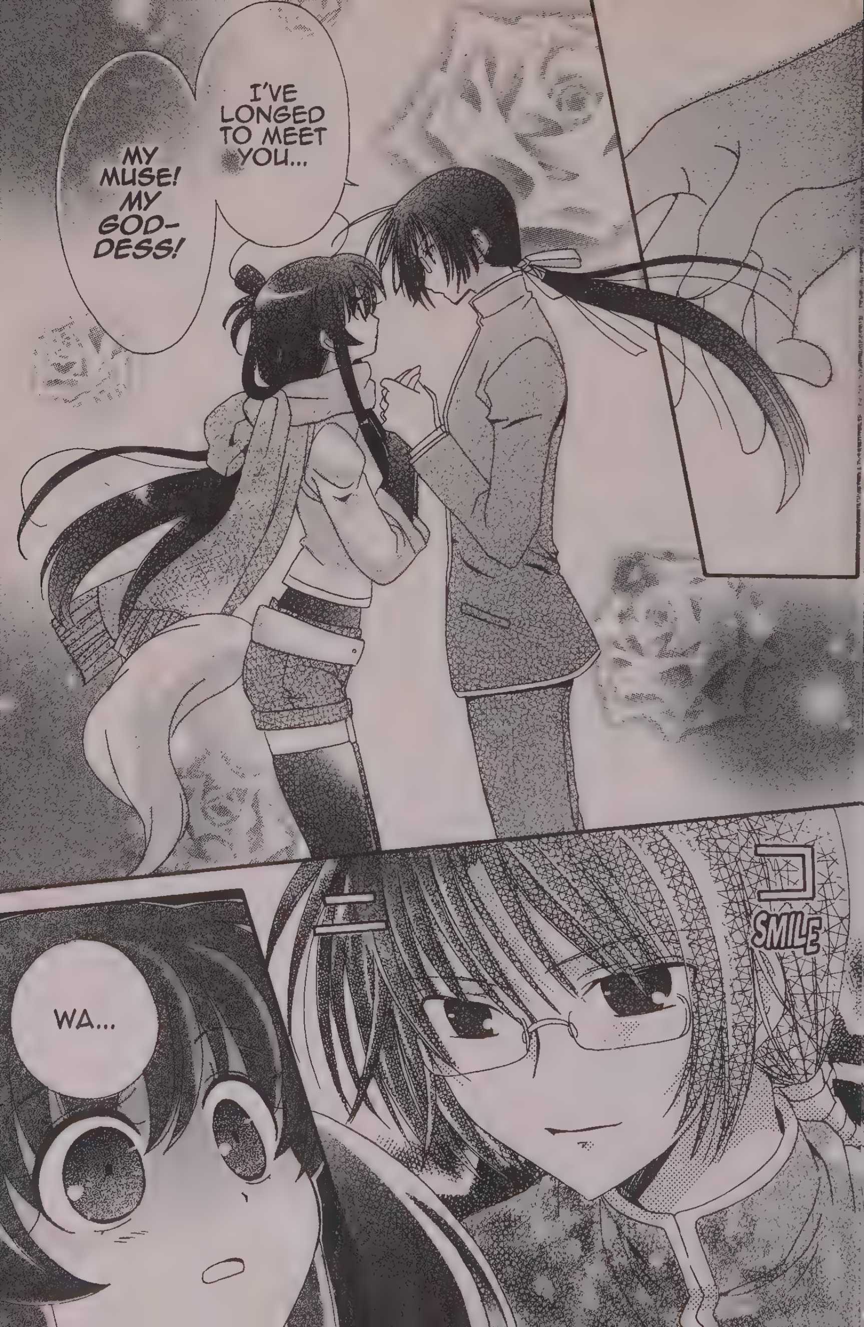

WHA? YOU...!
YOKO!
ガタ
STARTLE
HEE HEE!
I CAME ALL THE WAY TO YOUR SCHOOL.
NICE TO MEET YOU, YOKO-CHAN.
I'M KEITA'S FRIEND. ♥
ARE YOU KAWAHIRA'S SISTER?
HEY!
NOPE.

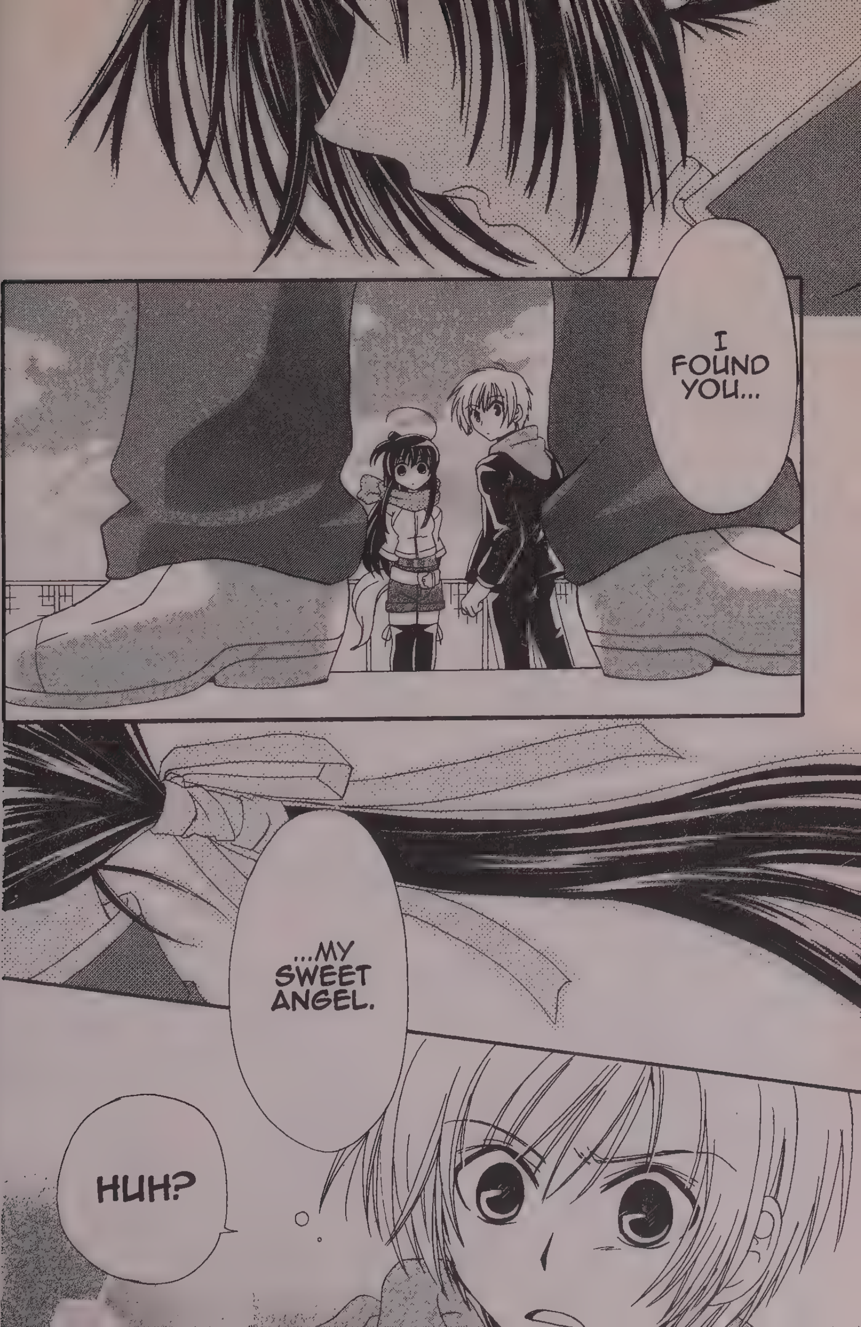

I FOUND HER...

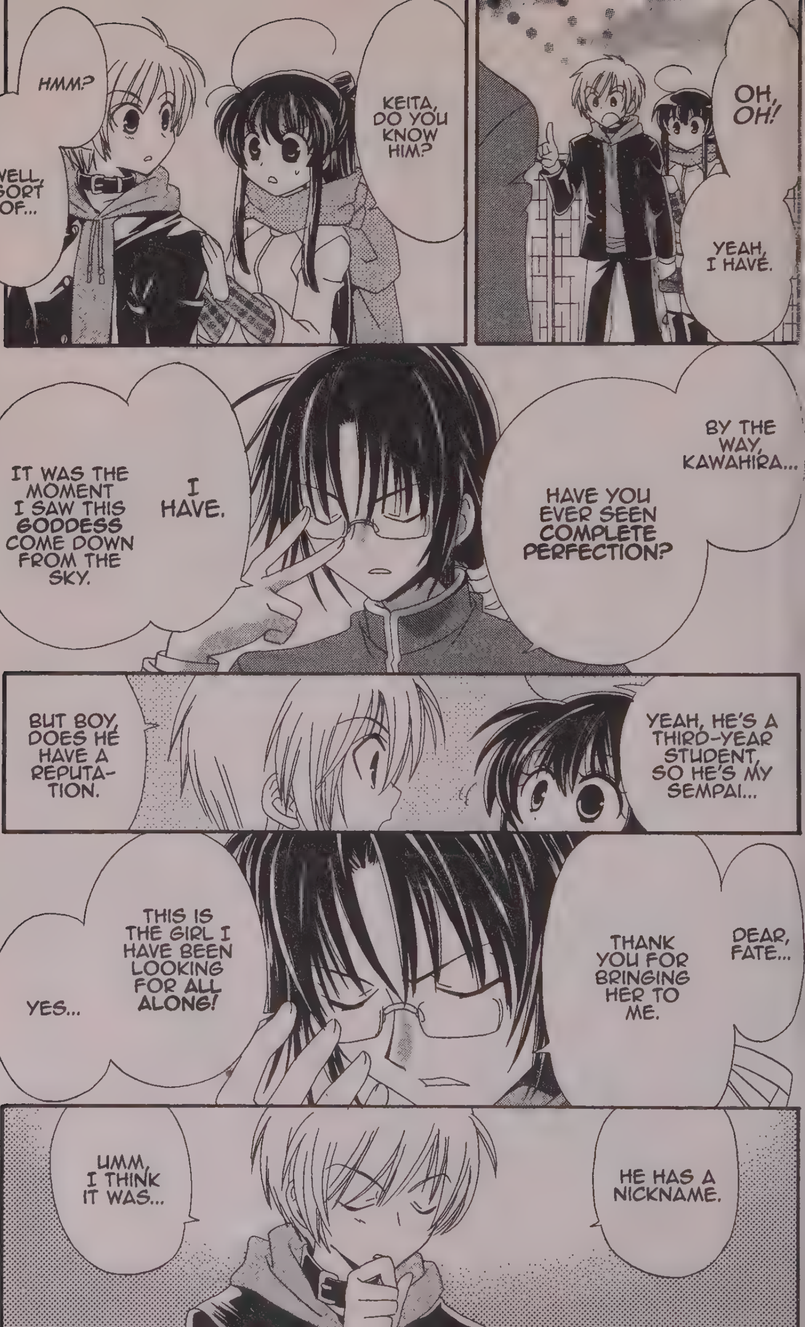

YOOHOO!
KEITA! ♡

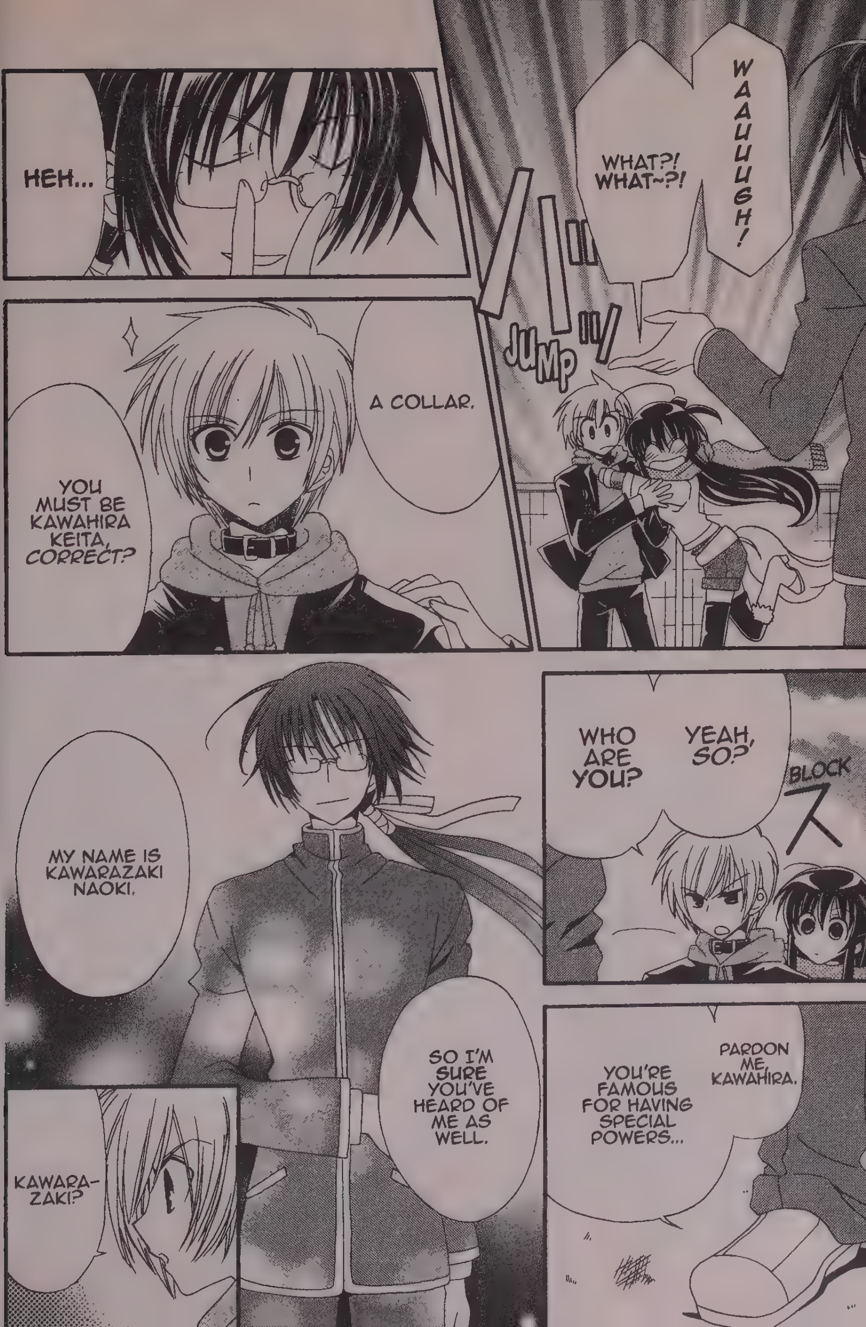

WELL.
I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D KNOW WHAT AN *INUKAMI* WAS.
YEAH, WELL, NOW THEY THINK I'M A PERVERT!
AND I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME TO MY SCHOOL!!
BUT...
YOU FORGOT THIS, KEITA.
IT WAS BLINKING THIS MORNING.
RUSTLE RUSTLE
AND WHEN I TOUCHED IT, I HEARD TOMEKICHI'S VOICE, AND HE SOUNDED FRANTIC.
AND I HEARD KARINA-SAN'S VOICE NEXT.
SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD BRING IT TO YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I CAN UNDERSTAND A CALL FROM KARINA-SAN...
BOOP
BUT ONE FROM *TOMEKICHI*...?
THAT *NEKOMATA* WHO WAS LOOKING FOR A BUDDHA STATUE AT THE HOT SPRING?
KEITA-SAN!
YUP!
HE COMES OVER TO PLAY EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
REALLY?
A CAT PLAYING WITH A DOG?
I REMEMBER GIVING HIM MY PHONE NUMBER...
BUT I WONDER WHY HE CALLED ME, THOUGH.
CLOMP

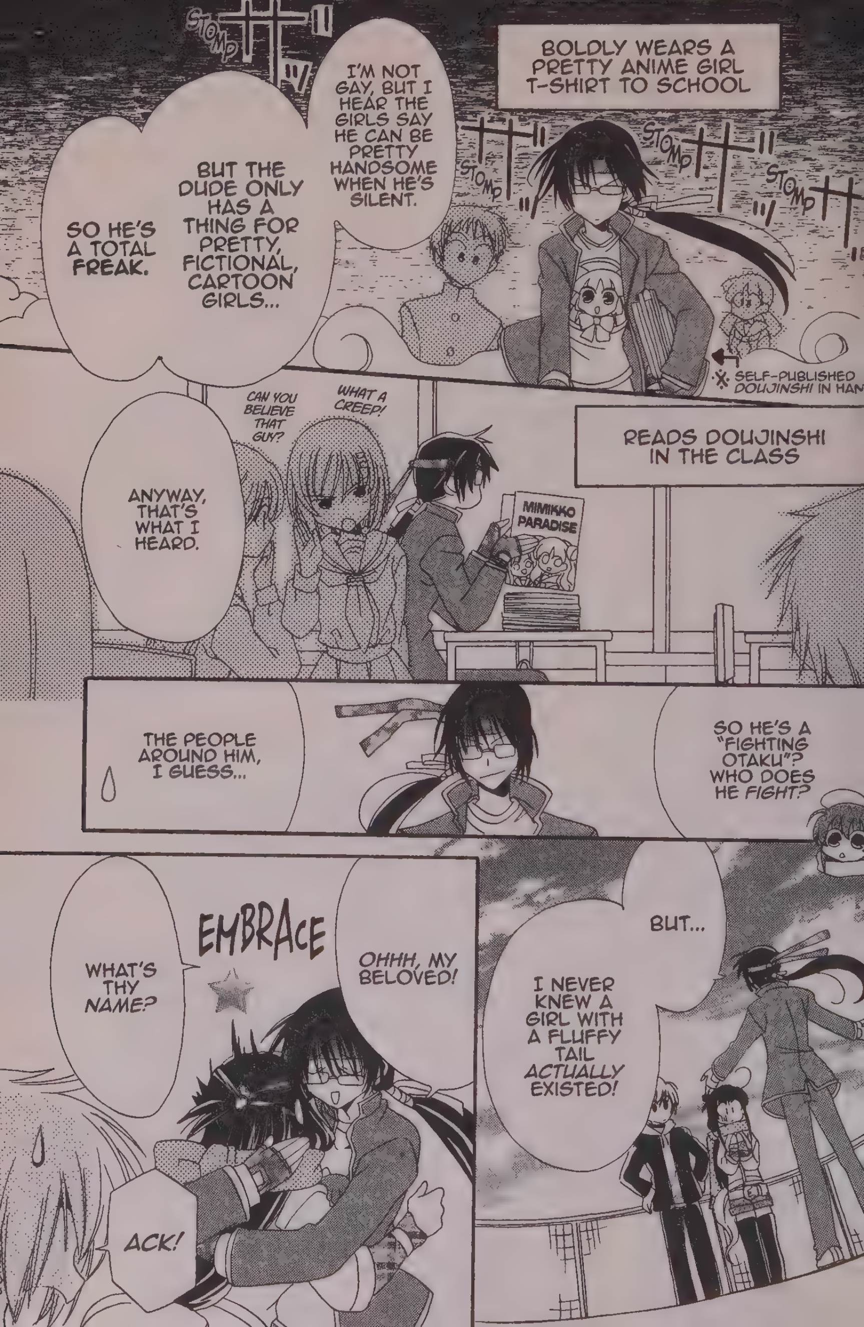

KEITA IS MY MASTER.
TEE HEE!
AND I'M HIS LOYAL BITCH. ♡
DASH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU CAN'T SAY YOU'RE MY "BITCH ♡"!!

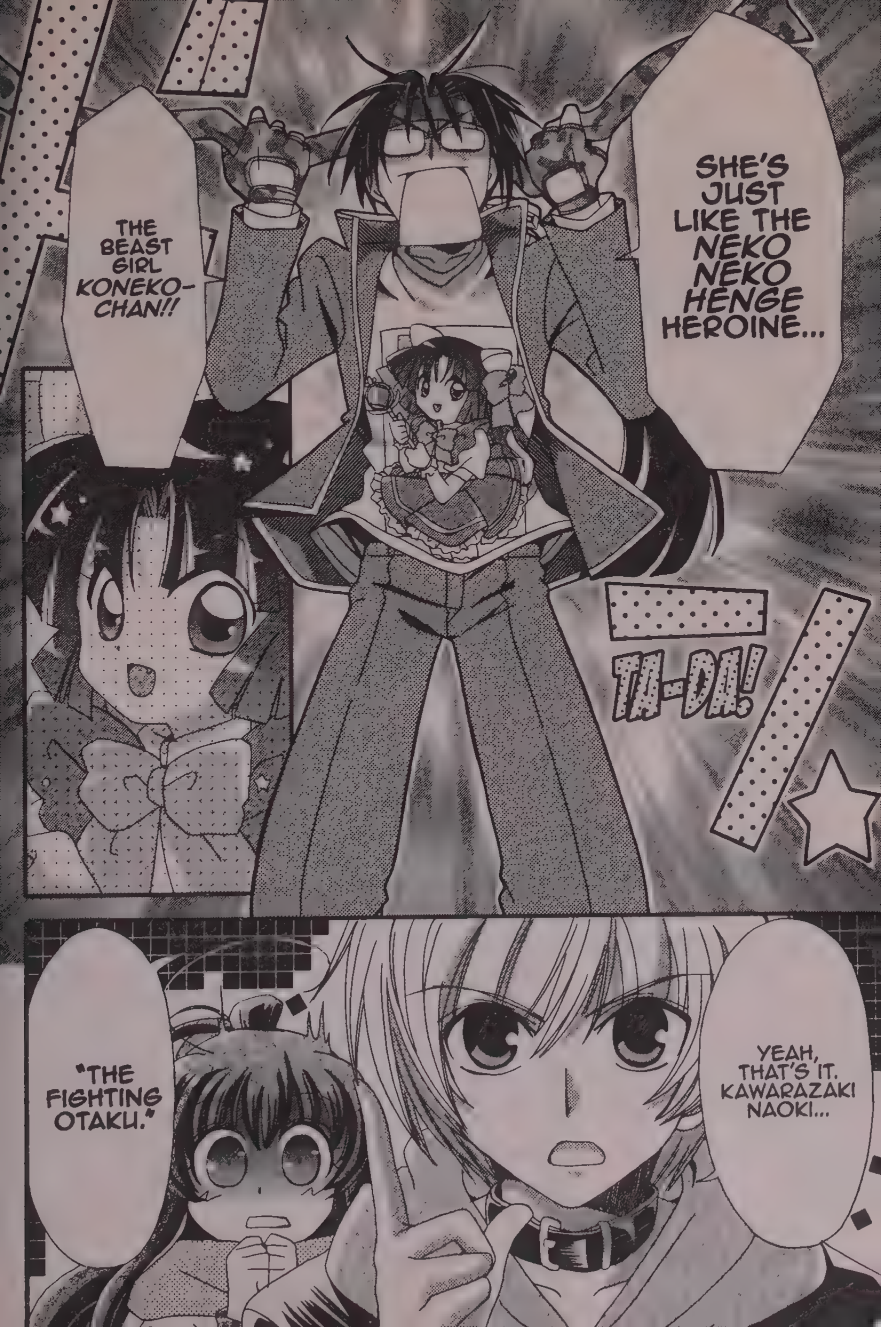

I'VE LONGED TO MEET YOU...
MY MUSE! MY GODDESS!
ニコ
SMILE
WA...

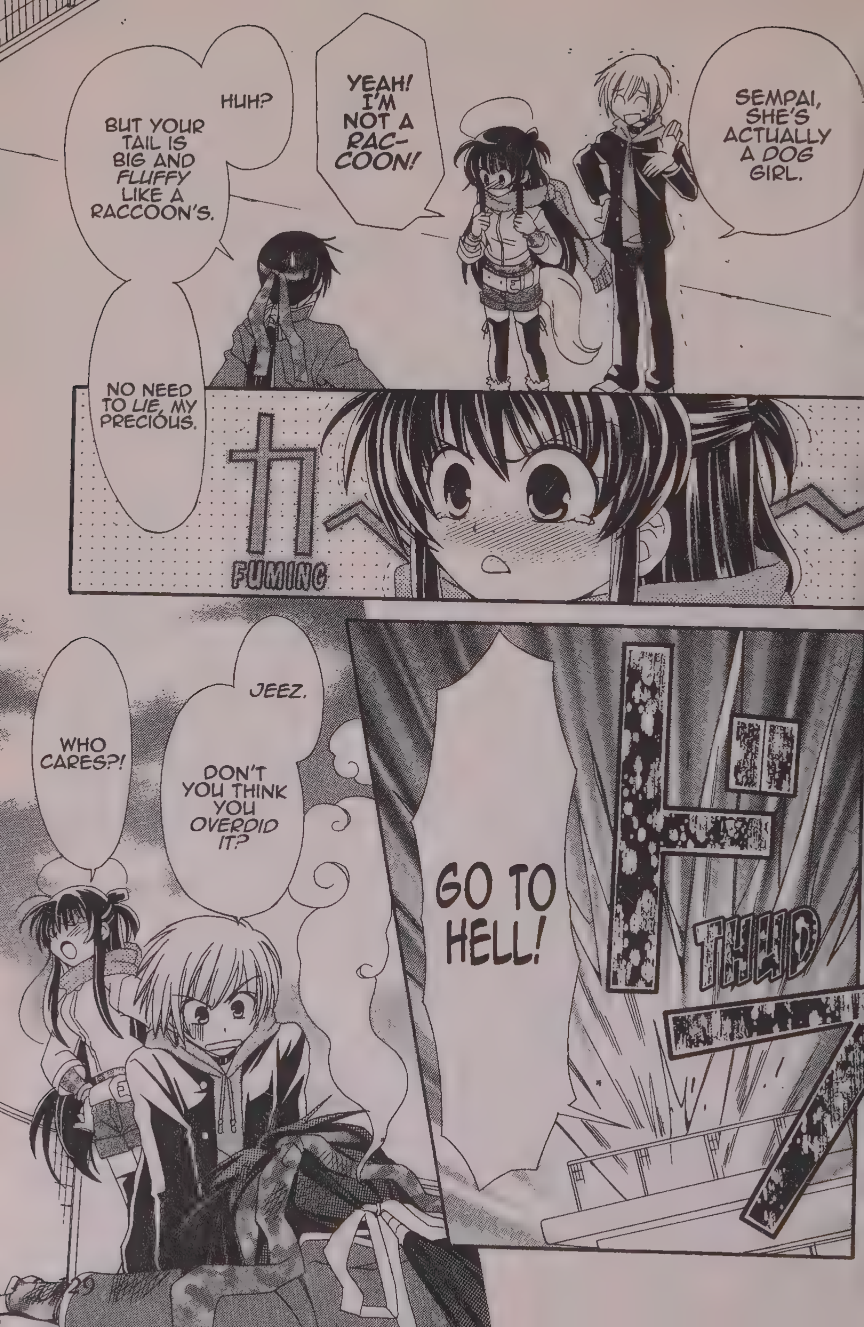

I FOUND YOU...
...MY SWEET ANGEL.
HUH?

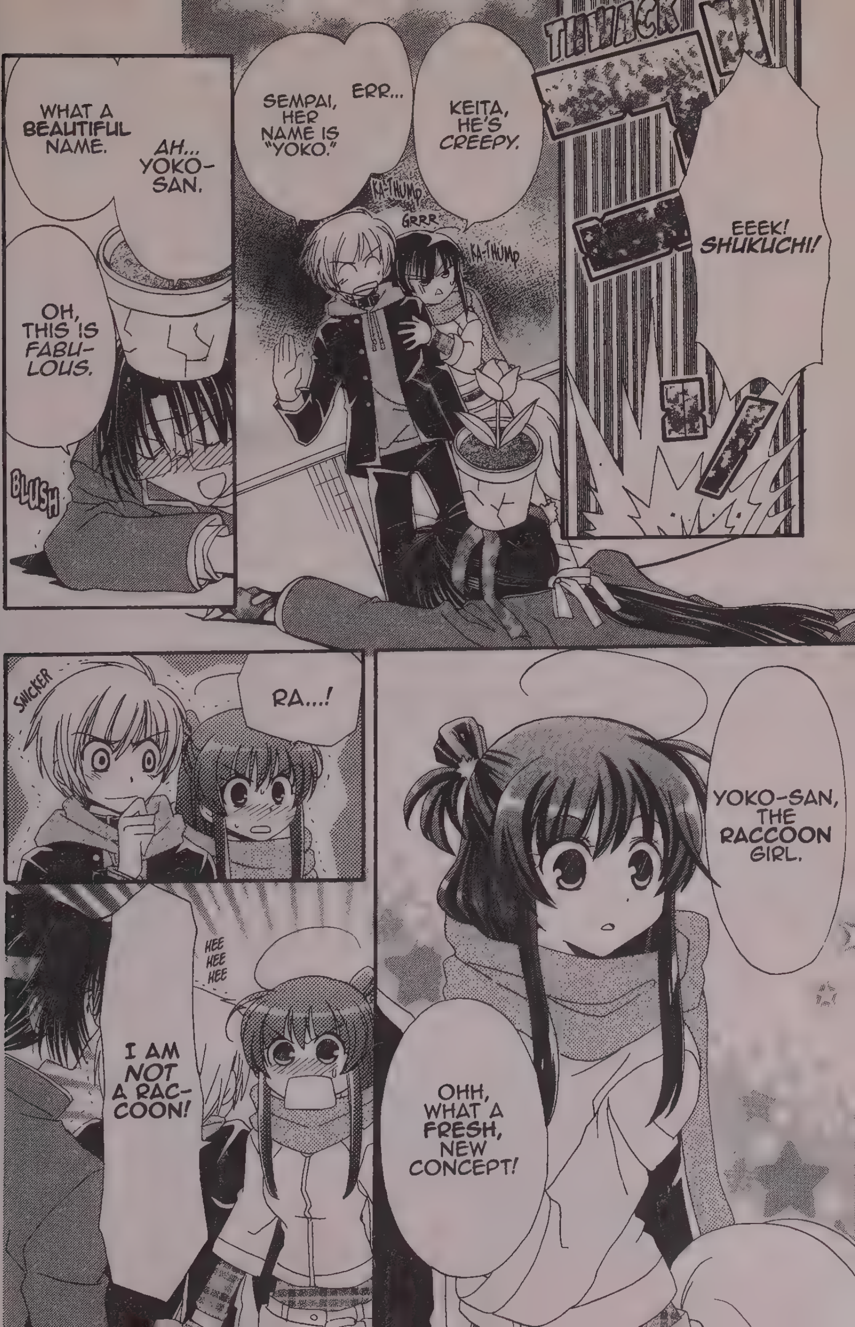

OH, OH!
YEAH, I HAVE.
KEITA, DO YOU KNOW HIM?
HMM?
WELL, SORT OF...
BY THE WAY, KAWAHIRA...
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN COMPLETE PERFECTION?
I HAVE.
IT WAS THE MOMENT I SAW THIS GODDESS COME DOWN FROM THE SKY.
YEAH, HE'S A THIRD-YEAR STUDENT, SO HE'S MY SEMPAI...
BUT BOY, DOES HE HAVE A REPUTATION.
DEAR, FATE...
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING HER TO ME.
THIS IS THE GIRL I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR ALL ALONG!
YES...
HE HAS A NICKNAME.
UMM, I THINK IT WAS...

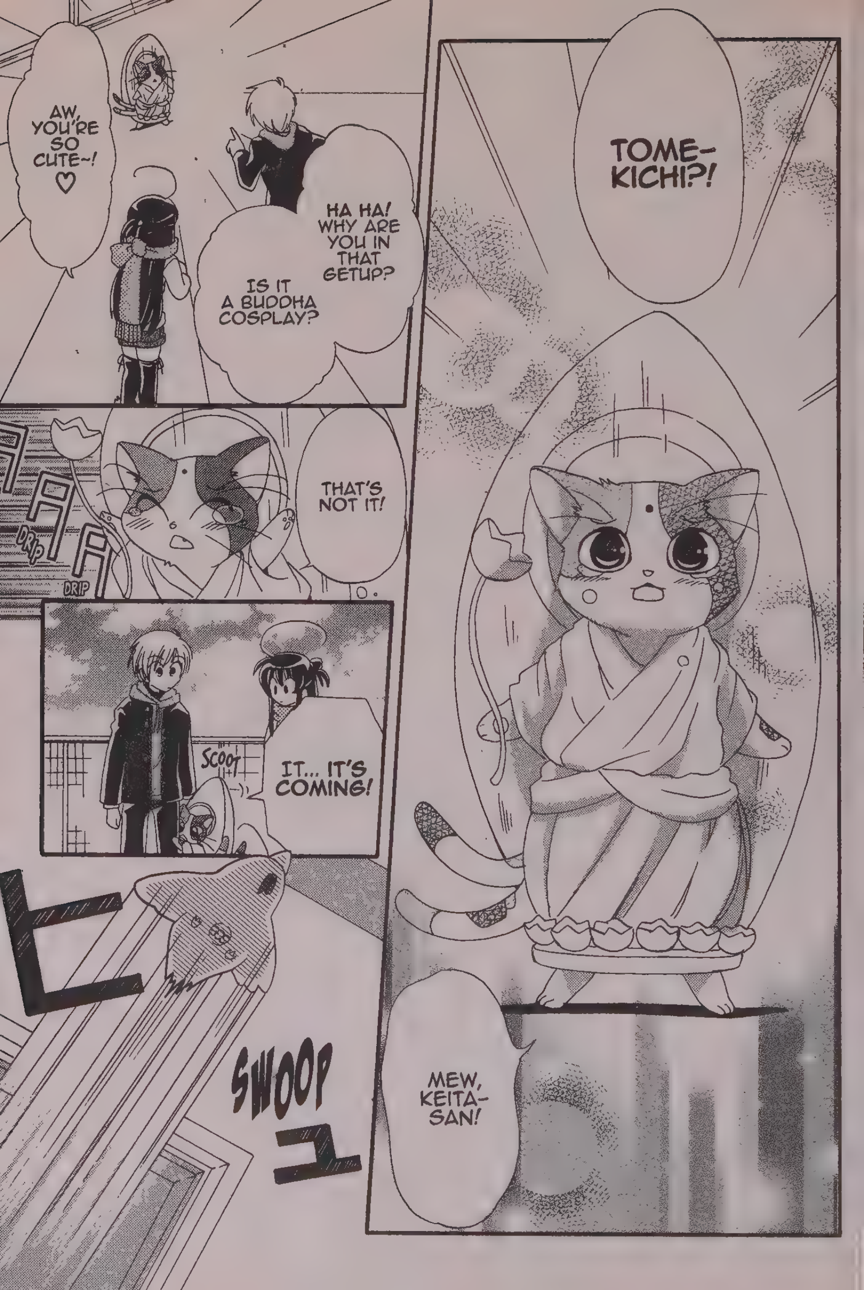

WAAUUGH!
WHAT?! WHAT~?!
JUMP
HEH...
A COLLAR.
YOU MUST BE KAWAHIRA KEITA, CORRECT?
BLOCK
YEAH, SO?
WHO ARE YOU?
PARDON ME, KAWAHIRA.
YOU'RE FAMOUS FOR HAVING SPECIAL POWERS...
MY NAME IS KAWARAZAKI NAOKI.
SO I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD OF ME AS WELL.
KAWARA-ZAKI?

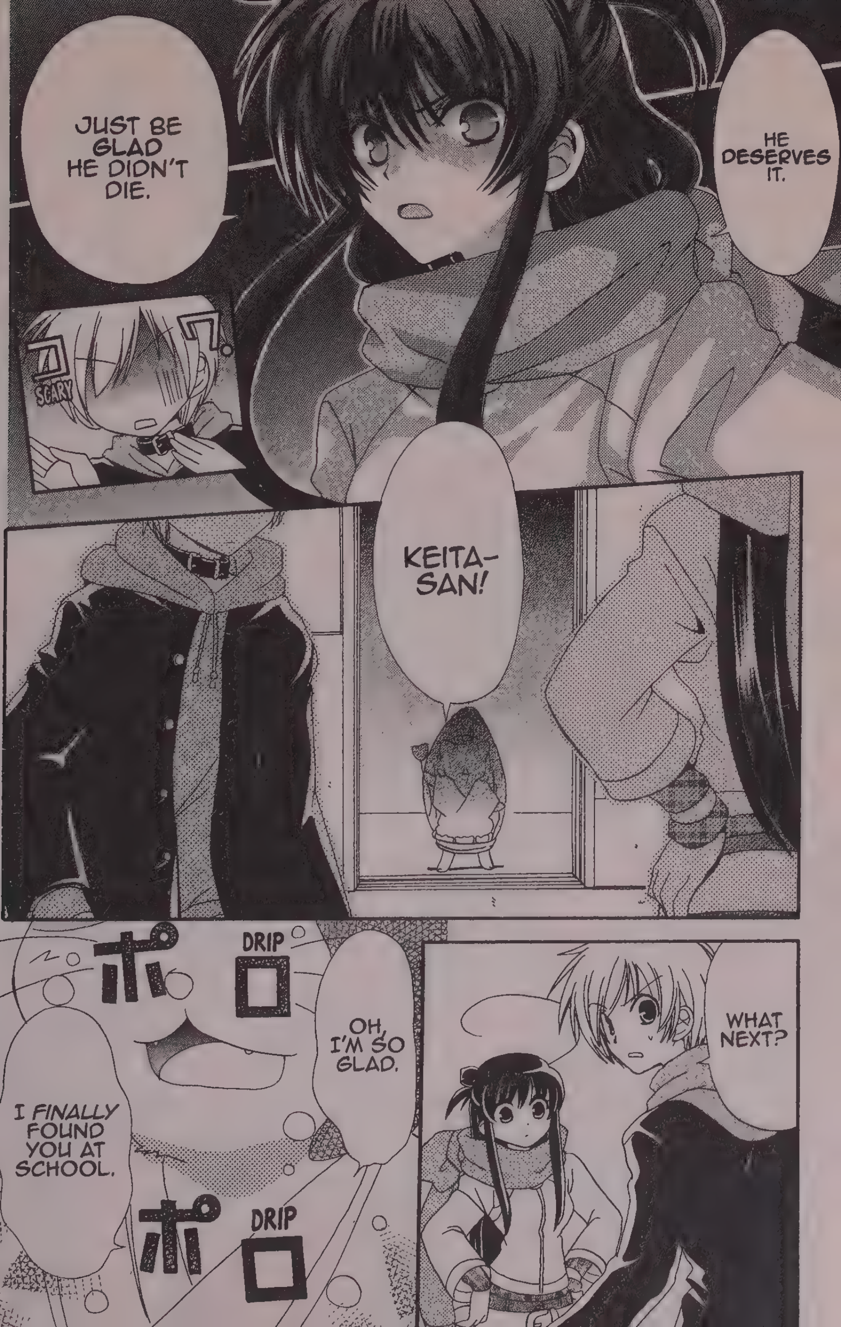

BOLDLY WEARS A PRETTY ANIME GIRL T-SHIRT TO SCHOOL
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
I'M NOT GAY, BUT I HEAR THE GIRLS SAY HE CAN BE PRETTY HANDSOME WHEN HE'S SILENT.
BUT THE DUDE ONLY HAS A THING FOR PRETTY, FICTIONAL, CARTOON GIRLS...
SO HE'S A TOTAL FREAK.
※ SELF-PUBLISHED DOUJINSHI IN HAN
READS DOUJINSHI IN THE CLASS
MIMIKKO PARADISE
WHAT A CREEP!
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT GUY?
ANYWAY, THAT'S WHAT I HEARD.
SO HE'S A "FIGHTING OTAKU"? WHO DOES HE FIGHT?
THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM, I GUESS...
BUT...
I NEVER KNEW A GIRL WITH A FLUFFY TAIL ACTUALLY EXISTED!
OHHH, MY BELOVED!
EMBRACE
WHAT'S THY NAME?
ACK!

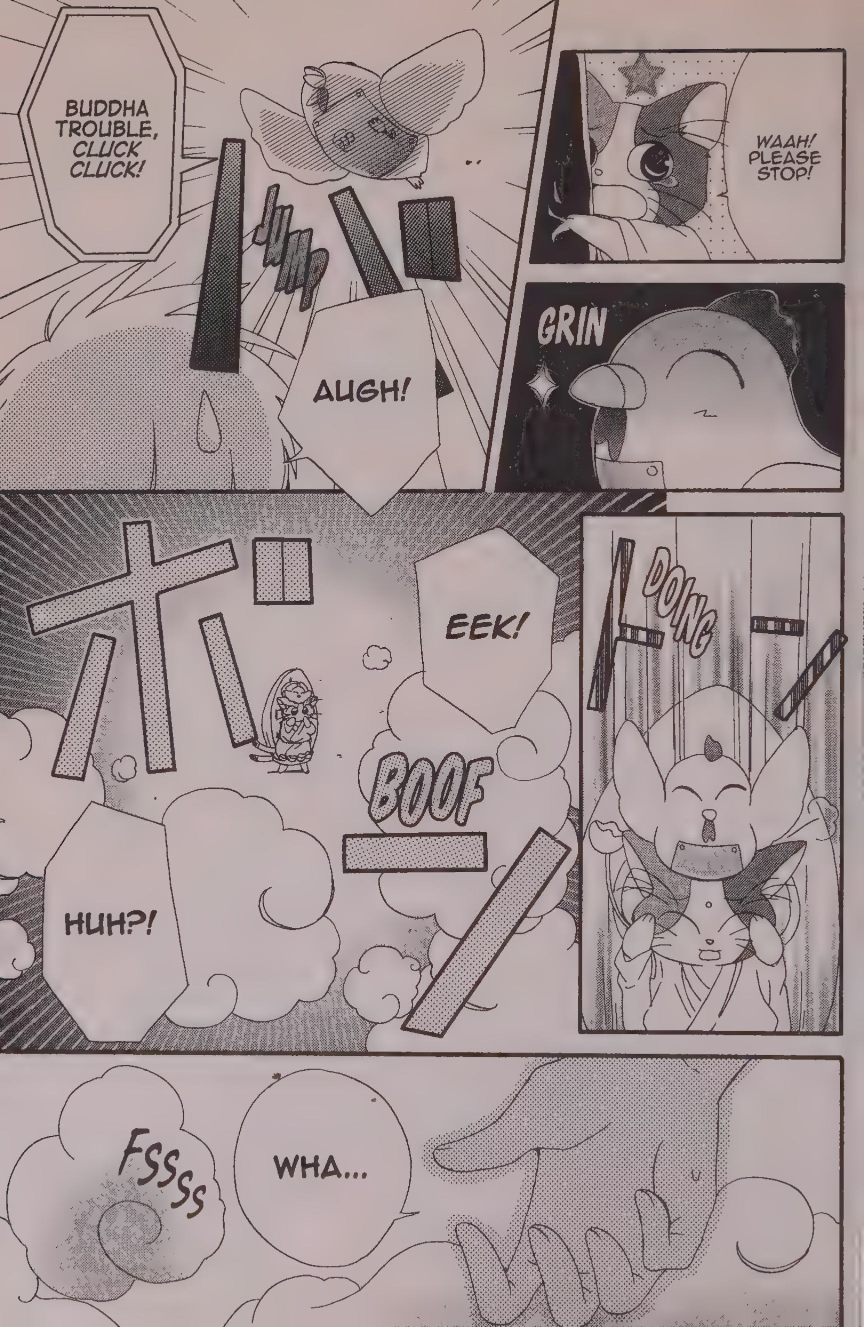

SHE'S JUST LIKE THE *NEKO NEKO HENGE* HEROINE...
THE BEAST GIRL KONEKO-CHAN!!
TA-DA!
YEAH, THAT'S IT. KAWARAZAKI NAOKI...
"THE FIGHTING OTAKU."

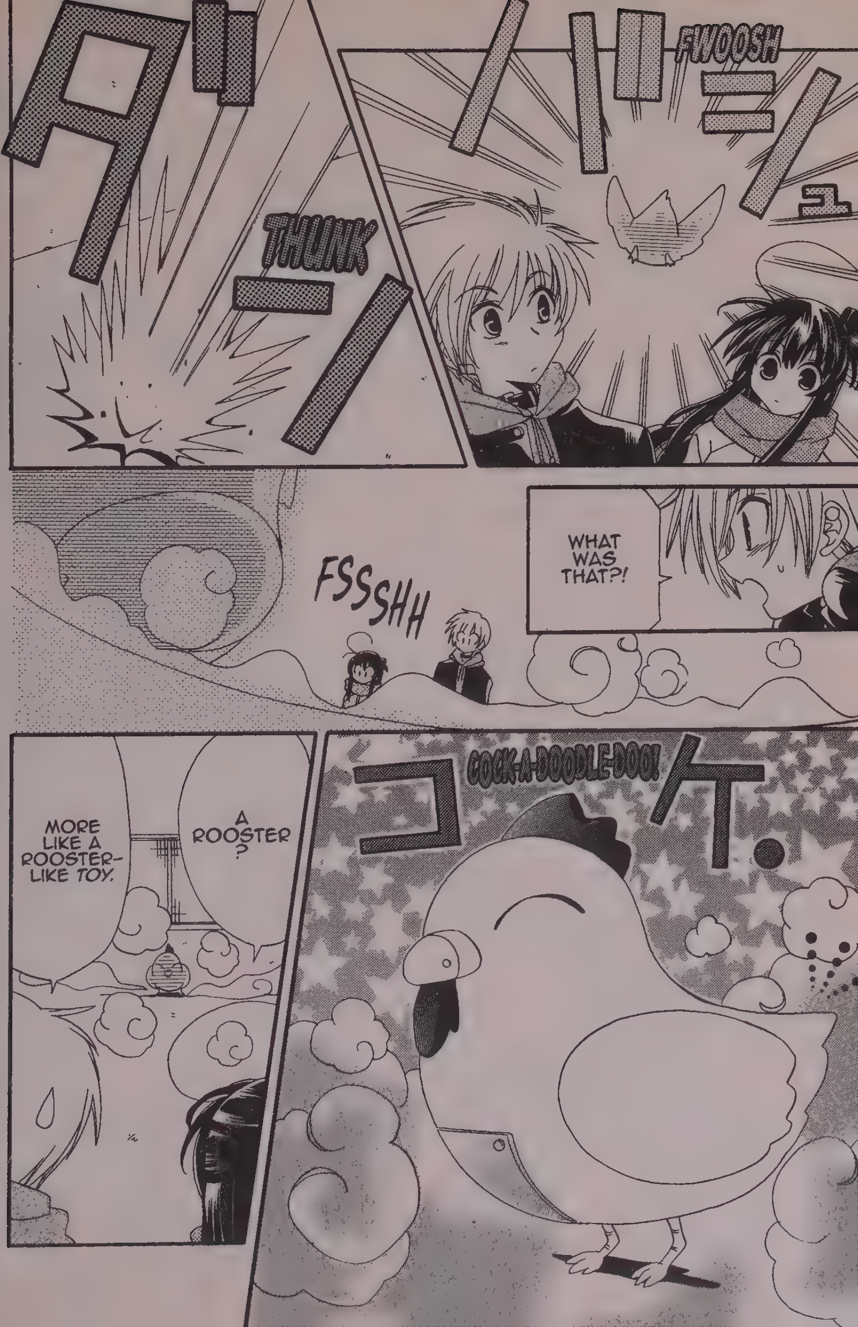

SEMPAI, SHE'S ACTUALLY A *DOG* GIRL.
YEAH! I'M NOT A *RAC-COON!*
HUH?
BUT YOUR TAIL IS BIG AND *FLUFFY* LIKE A RACCOON'S.
NO NEED TO *LIE*, MY PRECIOUS.
FUMING
GO TO HELL!
THUD
JEEZ.
DON'T YOU THINK YOU *OVERDID* IT?
WHO CARES?!

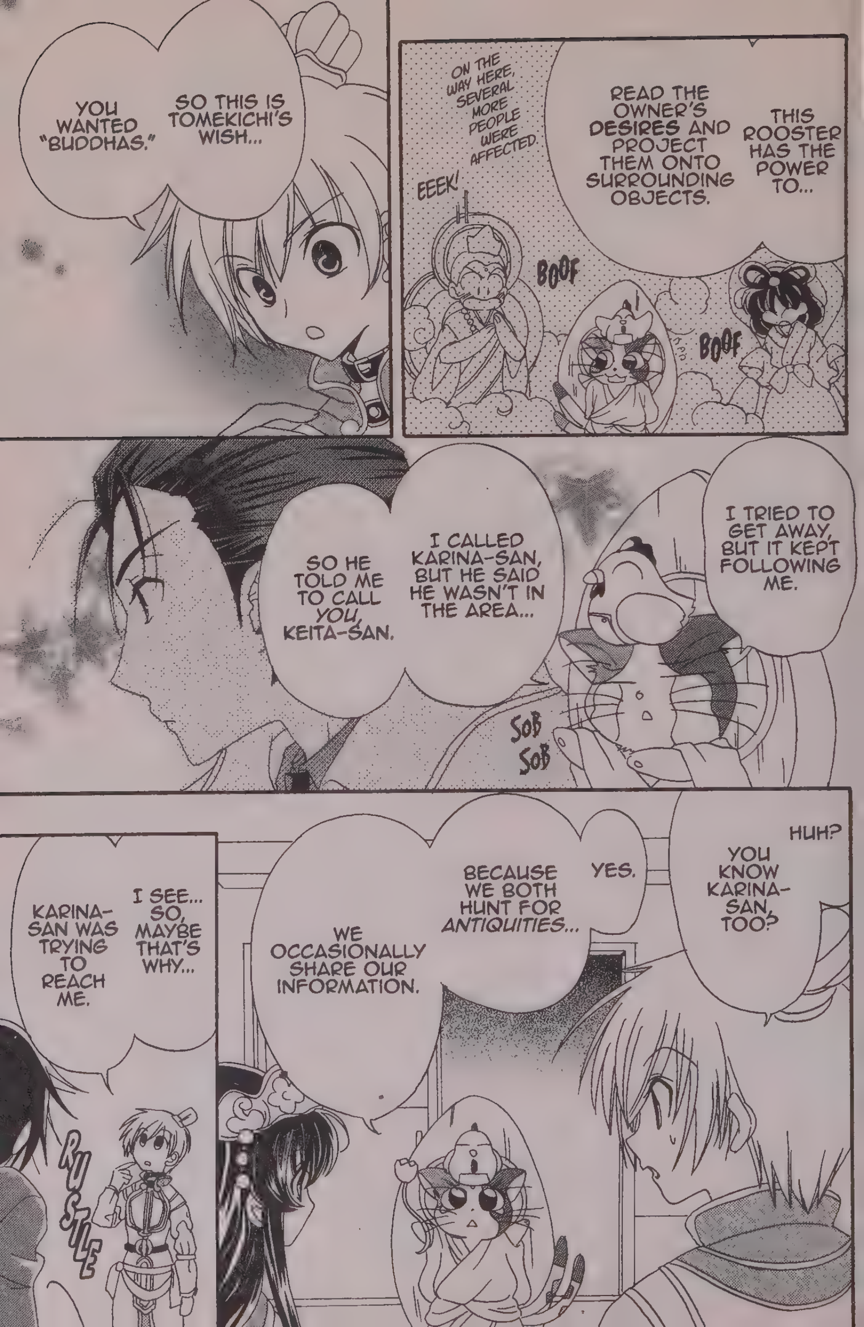

THWACK
EEEK! SHUKUCHI!
KEITA, HE'S CREEPY.
KA-THUMP
GRRR
KA-THUMP
ERR...
SEMPAI, HER NAME IS "YOKO."
AH... YOKO-SAN.
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME.
OH, THIS IS FABULOUS.
BLUSH
YOKO-SAN, THE RACCOON GIRL.
RA...!
SNICKER
OHH, WHAT A FRESH, NEW CONCEPT!
HEE HEE HEE
I AM NOT A RACCOON!

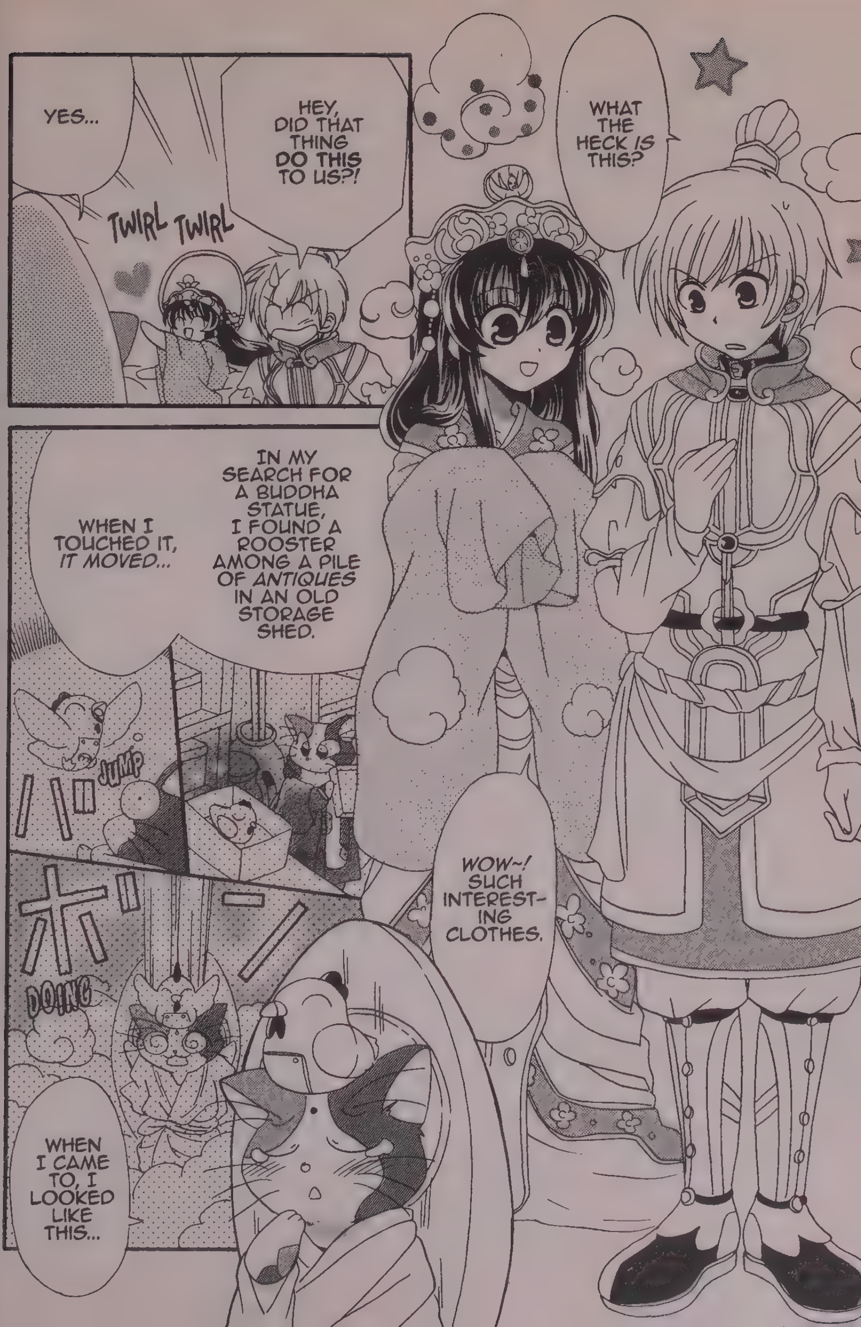

TOME-KICHI?!
MEW, KEITA-SAN!
HA HA! WHY ARE YOU IN THAT GETUP?
IS IT A BUDDHA COSPLAY?
AW, YOU'RE SO CUTE~! ♡
THAT'S NOT IT!
DRIP
DRIP
IT... IT'S COMING!
SCOOT
SWOOP

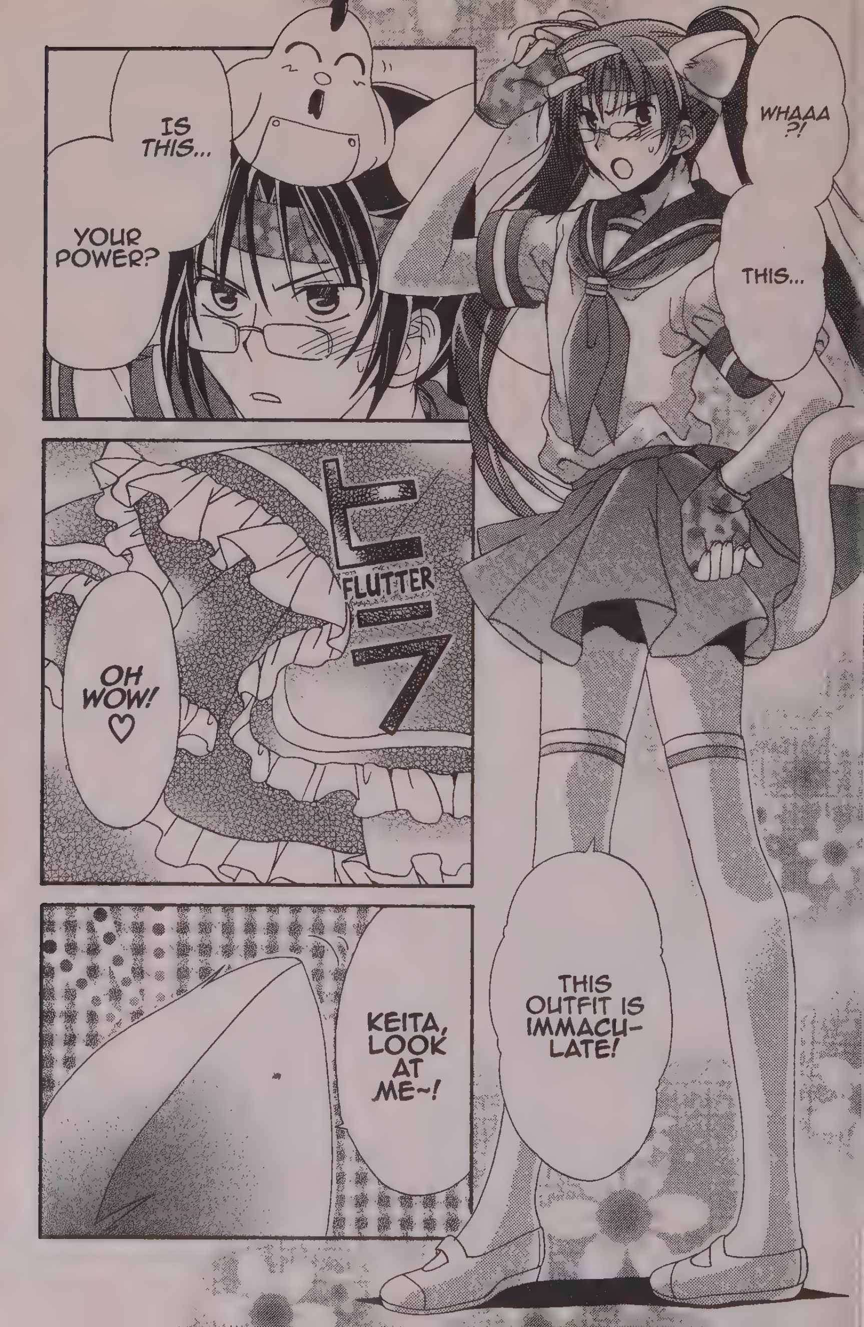

HE DESERVES IT.
JUST BE GLAD HE DIDN'T DIE.
コワ
SCARY
KEITA-SAN!
WHAT NEXT?
ポロ
DRIP
OH, I'M SO GLAD.
I FINALLY FOUND YOU AT SCHOOL.
ポロ
DRIP

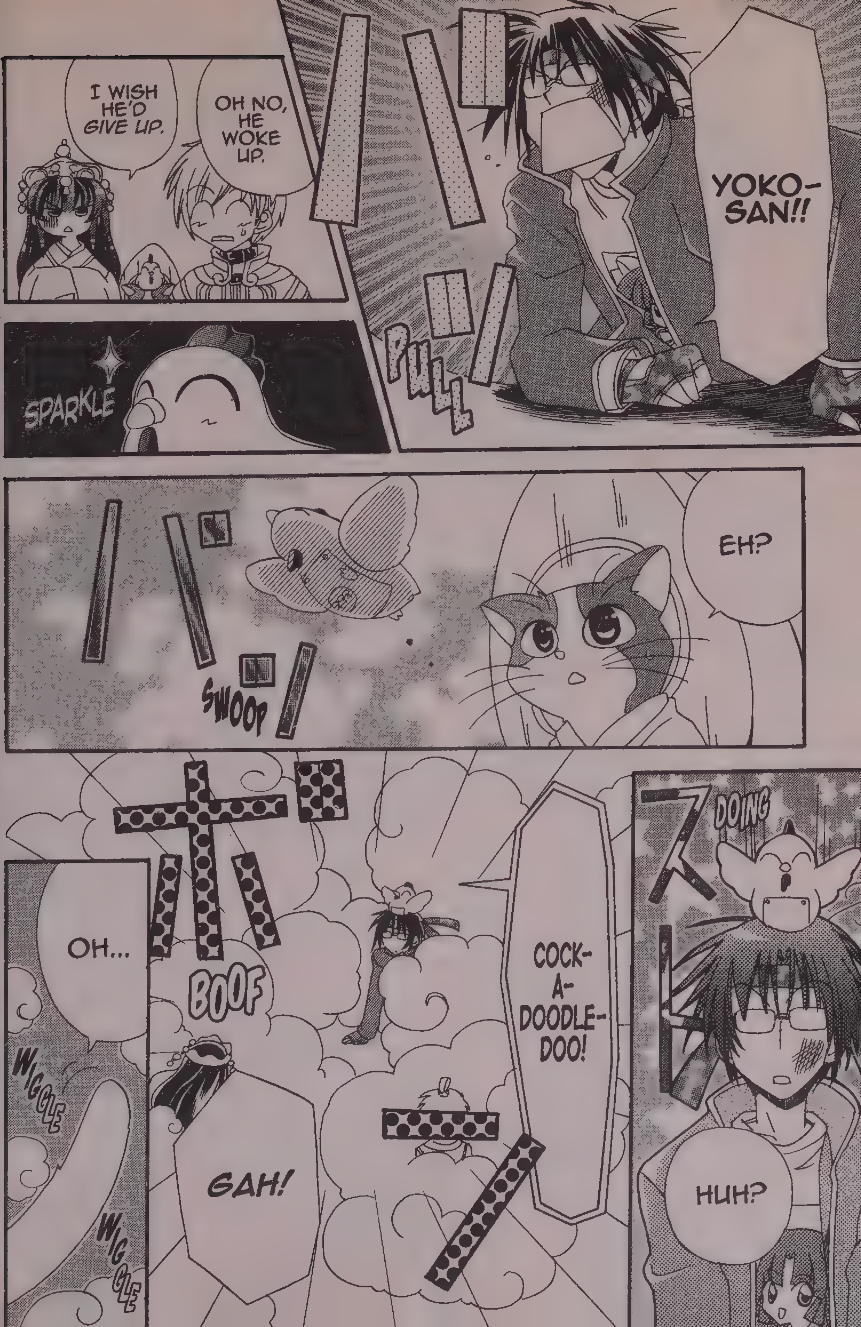

WAAH! PLEASE STOP!
GRIN
BUDDHA TROUBLE, CLUCK CLUCK!
JUMP
AUGH!
DOING
EEK!
BOOF
HUH?!
WHA...
FSSSS

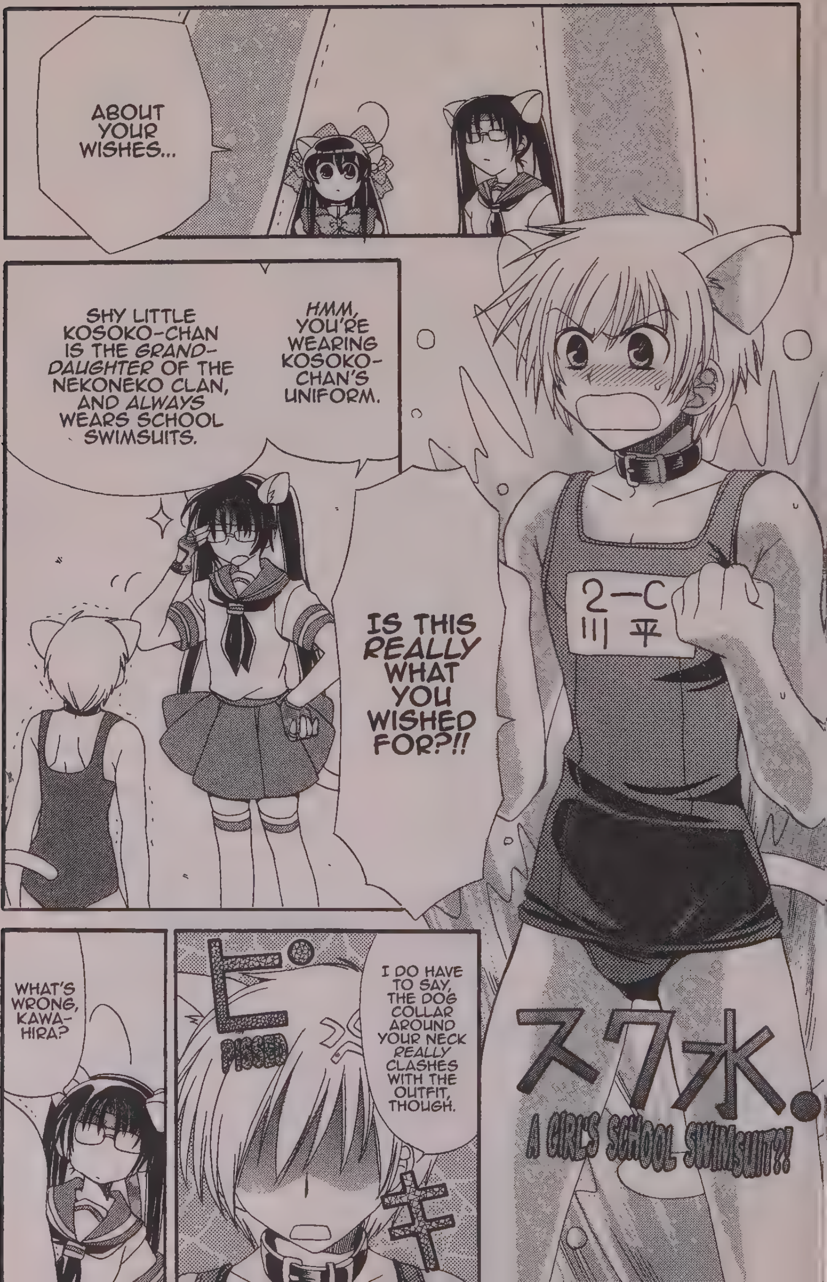

FWOOSH
THUNK
WHAT WAS THAT?!
FSSSHH
COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!
A ROOSTER?
MORE LIKE A ROOSTER-LIKE TOY.

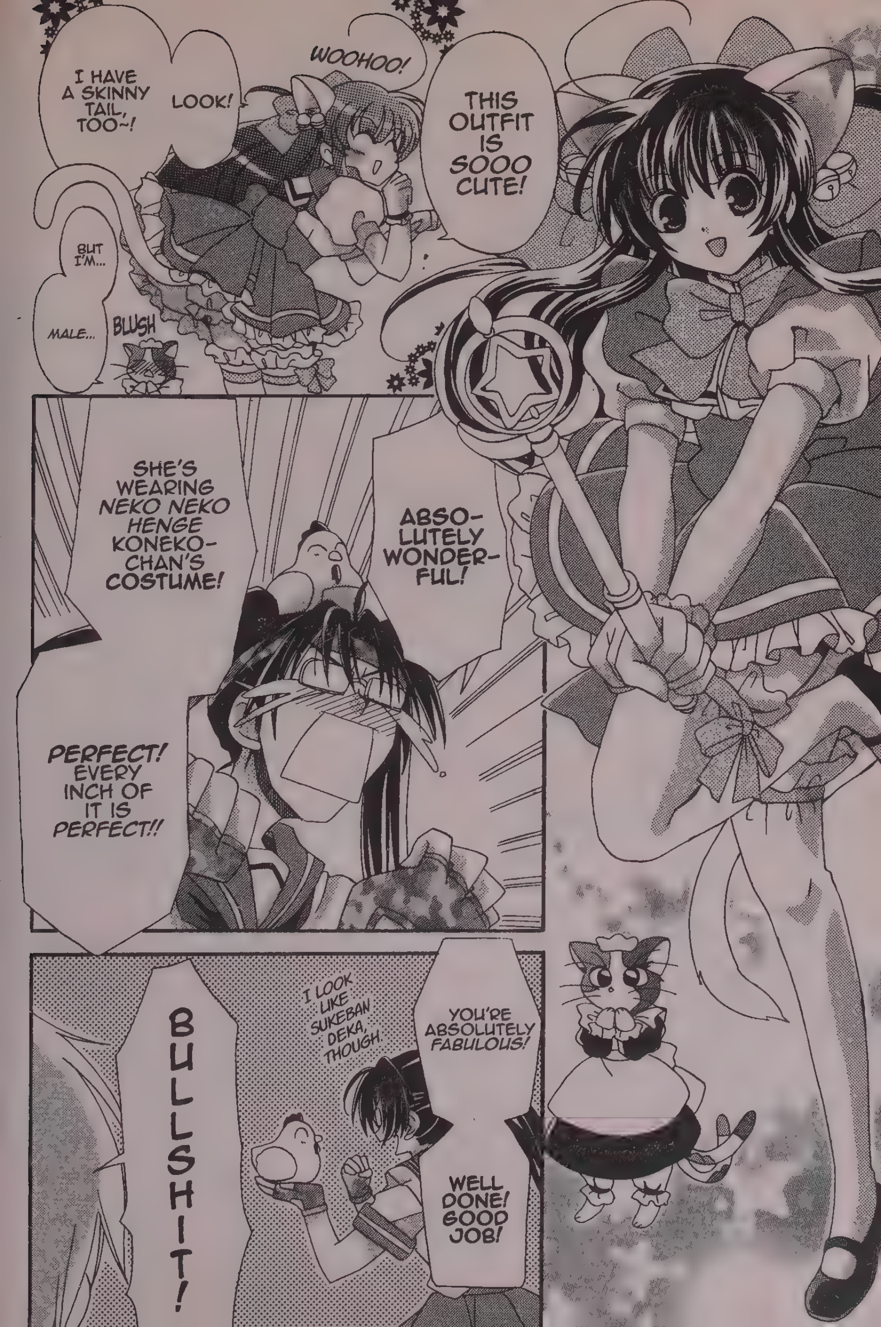

THIS ROOSTER HAS THE POWER TO...
READ THE OWNER'S DESIRES AND PROJECT THEM ONTO SURROUNDING OBJECTS.
ON THE WAY HERE, SEVERAL MORE PEOPLE WERE AFFECTED.
EEEK!
BOOF
BOOF
SO THIS IS TOMEKICHI'S WISH...
YOU WANTED "BUDDHAS."
I TRIED TO GET AWAY, BUT IT KEPT FOLLOWING ME.
SOB SOB
I CALLED KARINA-SAN, BUT HE SAID HE WASN'T IN THE AREA...
SO HE TOLD ME TO CALL *YOU*, KEITA-SAN.
HUH?
YOU KNOW KARINA-SAN, TOO?
YES.
BECAUSE WE BOTH HUNT FOR ANTIQUITIES...
WE OCCASIONALLY SHARE OUR INFORMATION.
I SEE... SO, MAYBE THAT'S WHY...
KARINA-SAN WAS TRYING TO REACH ME.
RUSTLE

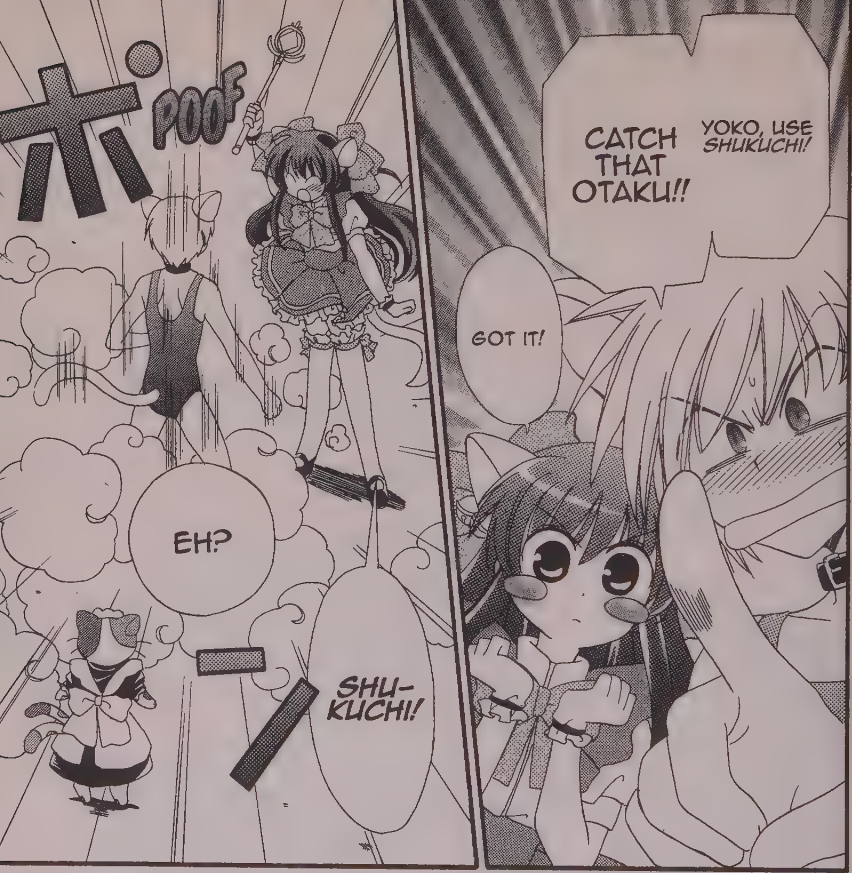

WHAT THE HECK *IS* THIS?
HEY, DID THAT THING DO THIS TO US?!
YES...
TWIRL TWIRL
IN MY SEARCH FOR A BUDDHA STATUE, I FOUND A ROOSTER AMONG A PILE OF *ANTIQUES* IN AN OLD STORAGE SHED.
WHEN I TOUCHED IT, *IT MOVED*...
JUMP
WOW~! SUCH INTERESTING CLOTHES.
DOING
WHEN I CAME TO, I LOOKED LIKE THIS...

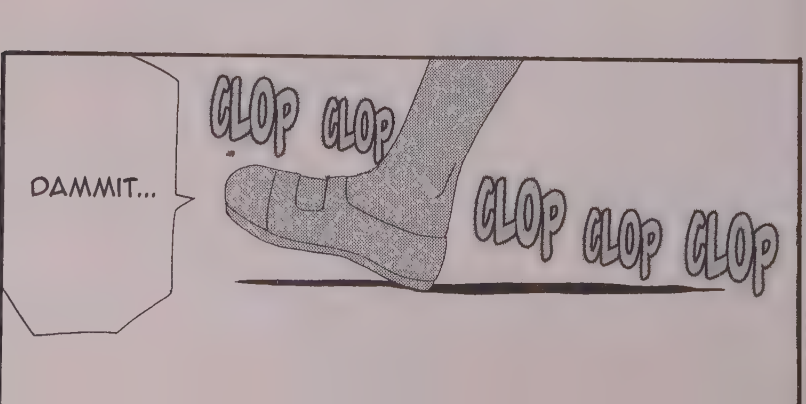

WHAAA?!
THIS...
IS THIS... YOUR POWER?
ヒラ FLUTTER
OH WOW! ♡
THIS OUTFIT IS IMMACULATE!
KEITA, LOOK AT ME~!

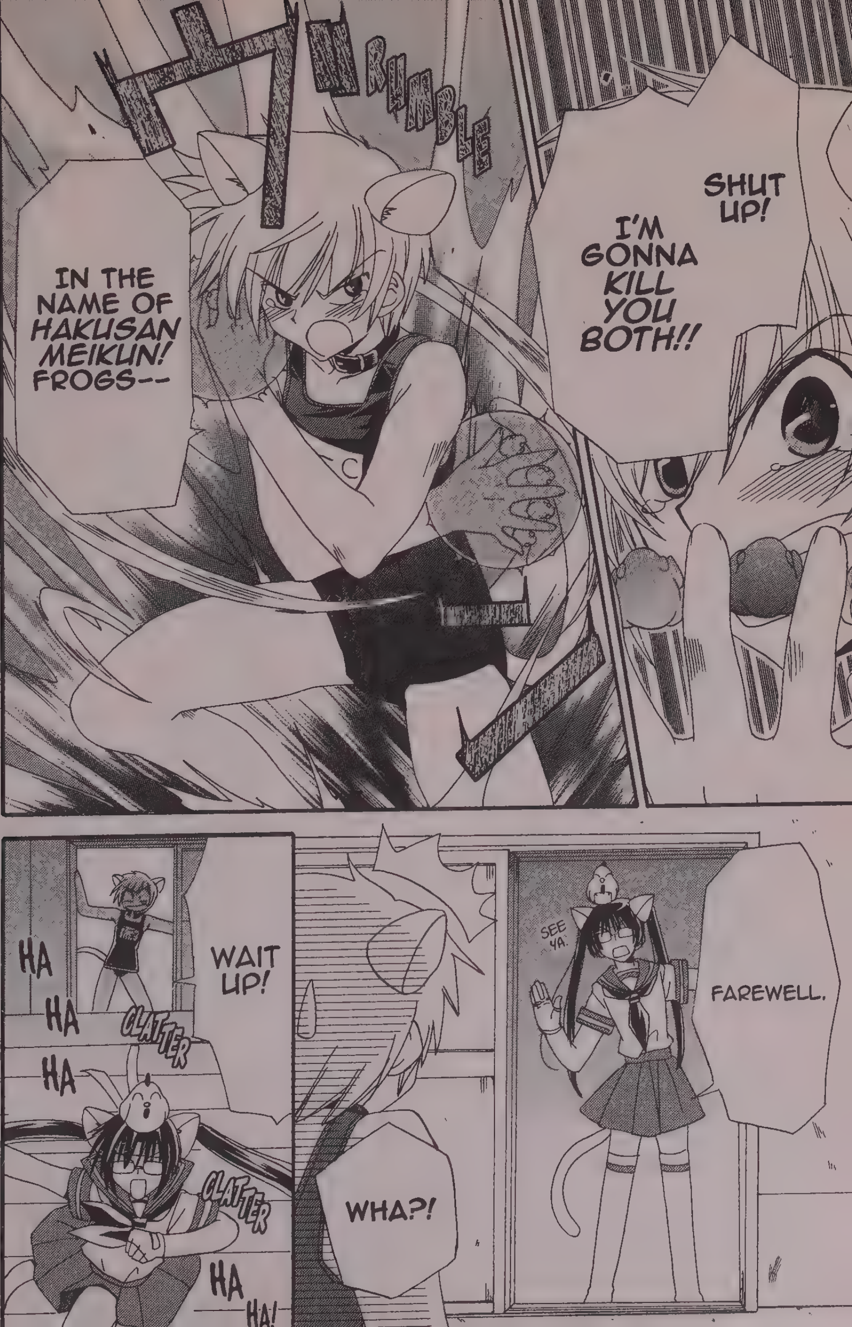

YOKO-SAN!!
PULL
OH NO, HE WOKE UP.
I WISH HE'D GIVE UP.
SPARKLE
EH?
SWOOP
DOING
HUH?
COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!
BOOF
GAH!
OH...
WIGGLE
WIGGLE

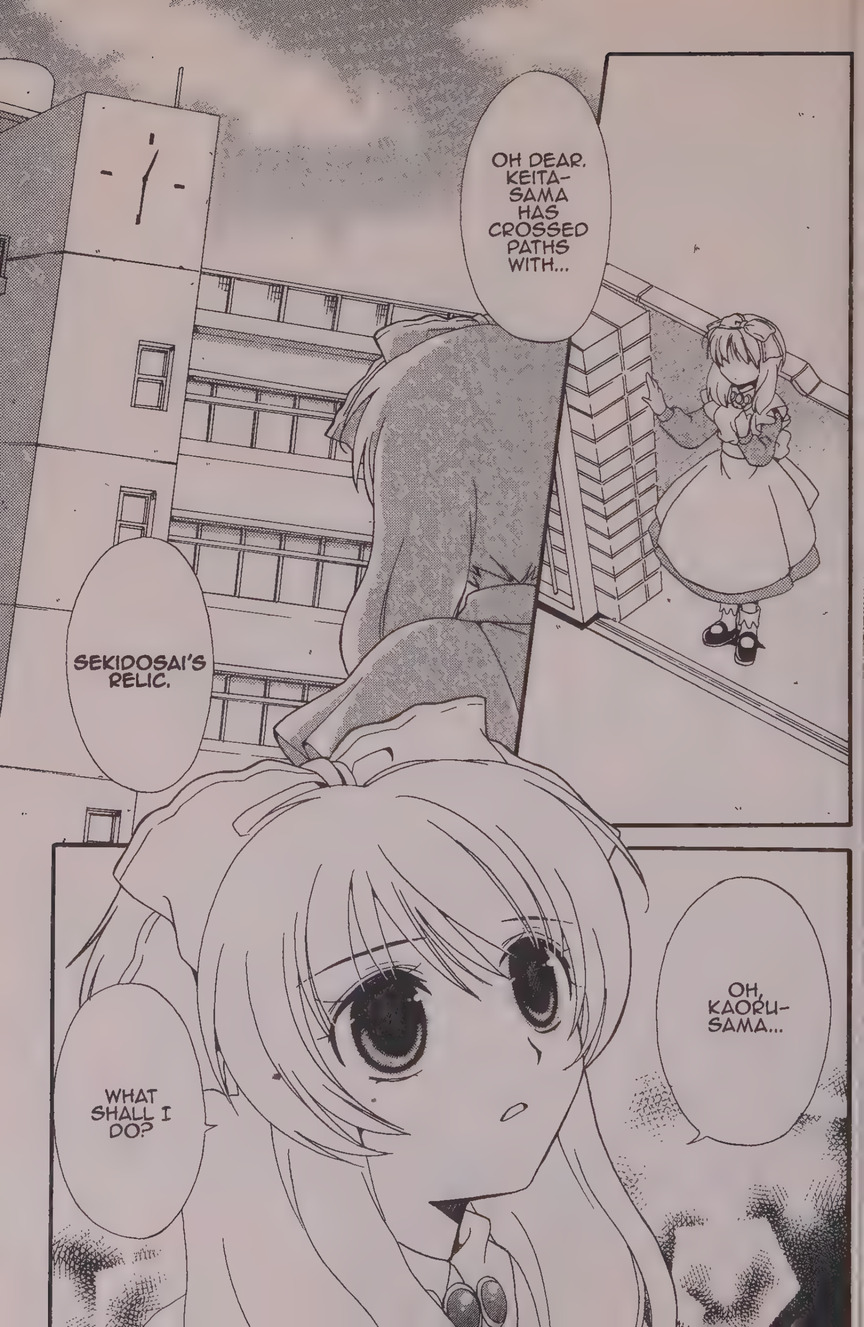

ABOUT YOUR WISHES...
HMM, YOU'RE WEARING KOSOKO-CHAN'S UNIFORM.
SHY LITTLE KOSOKO-CHAN IS THE GRAND-DAUGHTER OF THE NEKONEKO CLAN, AND ALWAYS WEARS SCHOOL SWIMSUITS.
2—C 川平
IS THIS REALLY WHAT YOU WISHED FOR?!!
スク水。
A GIRL'S SCHOOL SWIMSUIT?!
I DO HAVE TO SAY, THE DOG COLLAR AROUND YOUR NECK REALLY CLASHES WITH THE OUTFIT, THOUGH.
ピキ
PISSED
WHAT'S WRONG, KAWA-HIRA?

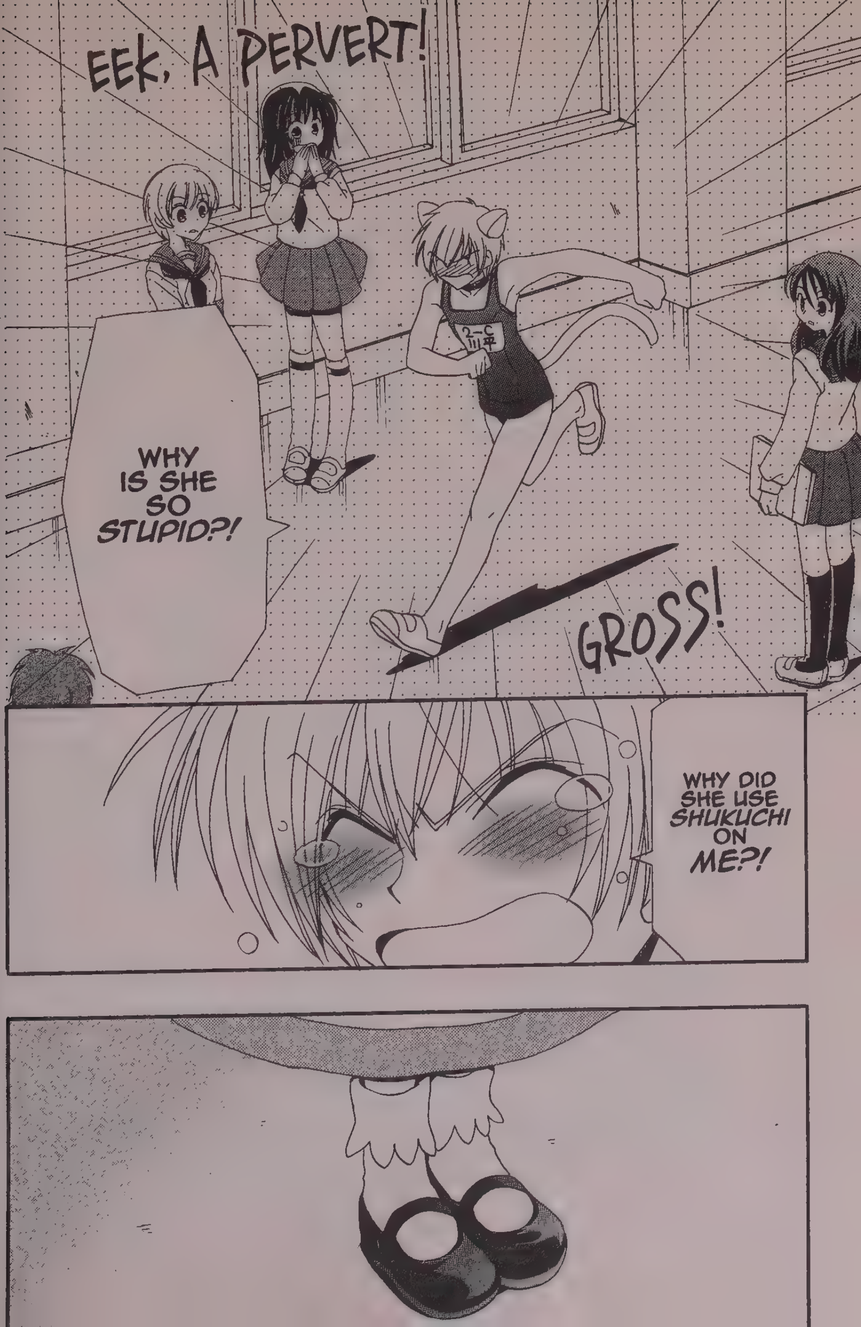

THIS OUTFIT IS SOOO CUTE!
WOOHOO!
LOOK!
I HAVE A SKINNY TAIL, TOO~!
BUT I'M... MALE...
BLUSH
ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL!
SHE'S WEARING NEKO NEKO HENGE KONEKO-CHAN'S COSTUME!
PERFECT! EVERY INCH OF IT IS PERFECT!!
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS!
I LOOK LIKE SUKEBAN DEKA, THOUGH.
WELL DONE! GOOD JOB!
BULLSHIT!

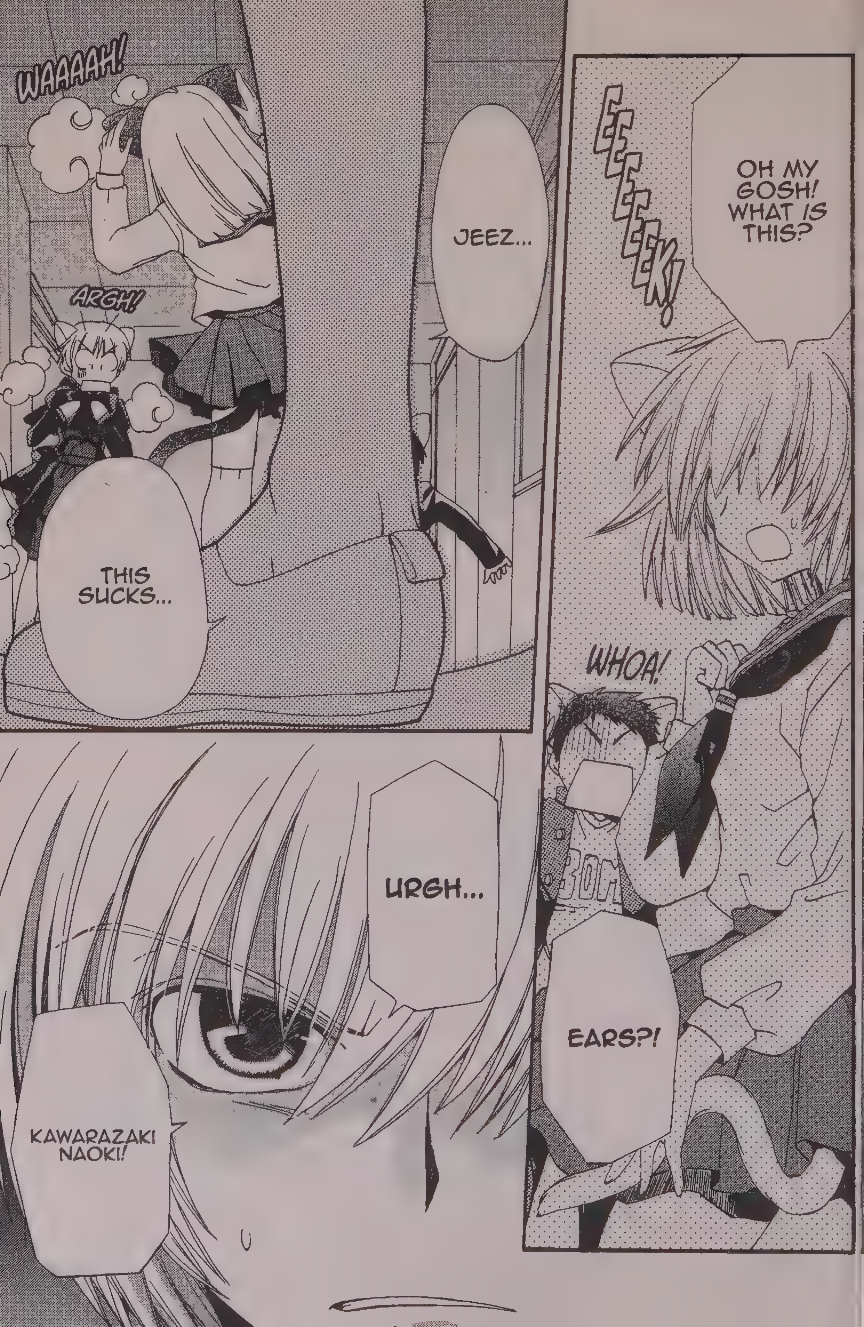

YOKO, USE SHUKUCHI!
CATCH THAT OTAKU!!
GOT IT!
ホ
POOF
SHU-KUCHI!
EH?


CLOP CLOP
CLOP CLOP CLOP
DAMMIT...


SHUT UP!
I'M GONNA KILL YOU BOTH!!
RUMBLE
IN THE NAME OF HAKUSAN MEIKUN! FROGS--
FAREWELL.
SEE YA.
WHA?!
WAIT UP!
HA HA HA
CLATTER
CLATTER
HA HA!


OH DEAR. KEITA-SAMA HAS CROSSED PATHS WITH...
SEKIDOSAI'S RELIC.
OH, KAORU-SAMA...
WHAT SHALL I DO?

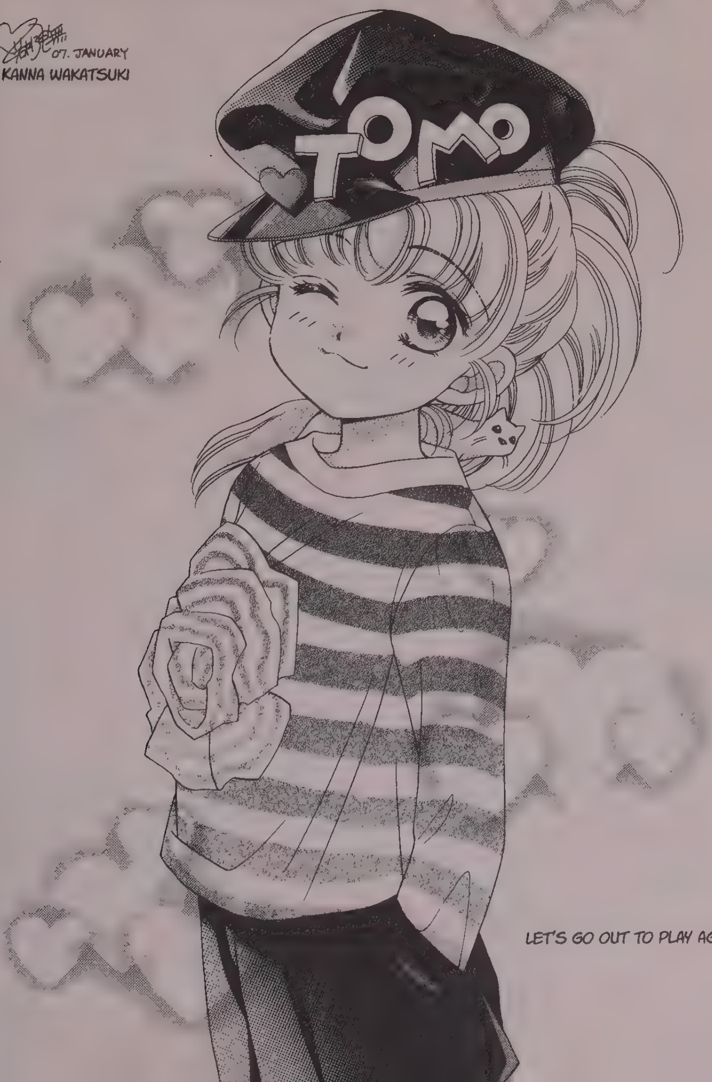

EEK, A PERVERT!
GROSS!
2-C
川平
WHY IS SHE SO STUPID?!
WHY DID SHE USE SHUKUCHI ON ME?!


EEEEEK!
OH MY GOSH! WHAT IS THIS?
WHOA!
EARS?!
JEEZ...
WAAAAH!
ARGH!
THIS SUCKS...
URGH...
KAWARAZAKI NAOKI!

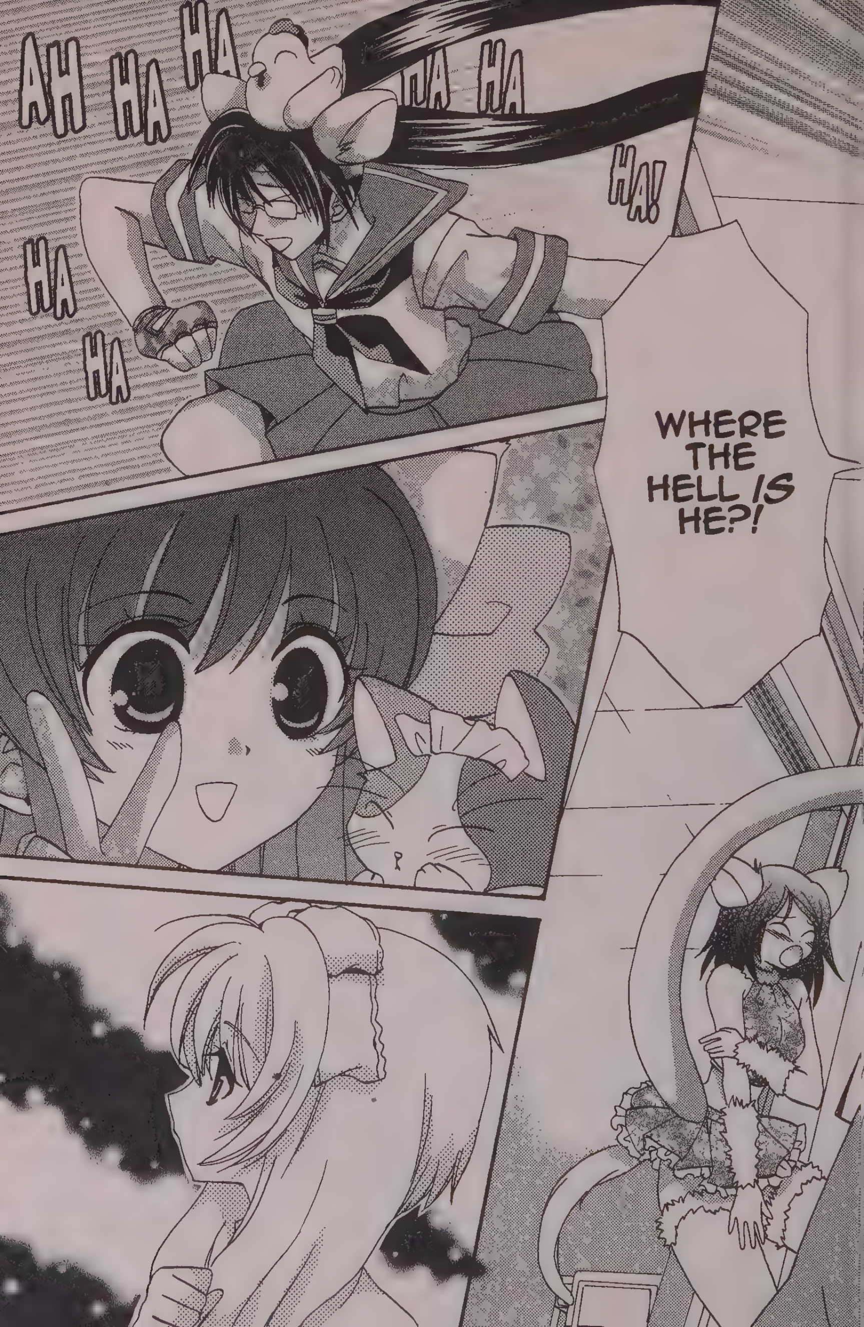
From the Character Designer

CONGRATULATIONS ON VOLUME 3! ♡
WELL ACTUALLY, IT'S MORE LIKE I'M SURPRISED THAT IT'S ALREADY VOLUME 3...♪
TIME FLIES SO QUICKLY.
TO MATSUZAWA-SAN, WHO DRAWS THIS WONDERFUL MANGA...
AS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL CREATORS, I'M DELIGHTED.
TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR ALL THE HARD WORK YOU HAVE DONE,
I DREW A "PRECOCIOUS LITTLE TOMOHANE," AS YOU REQUESTED.

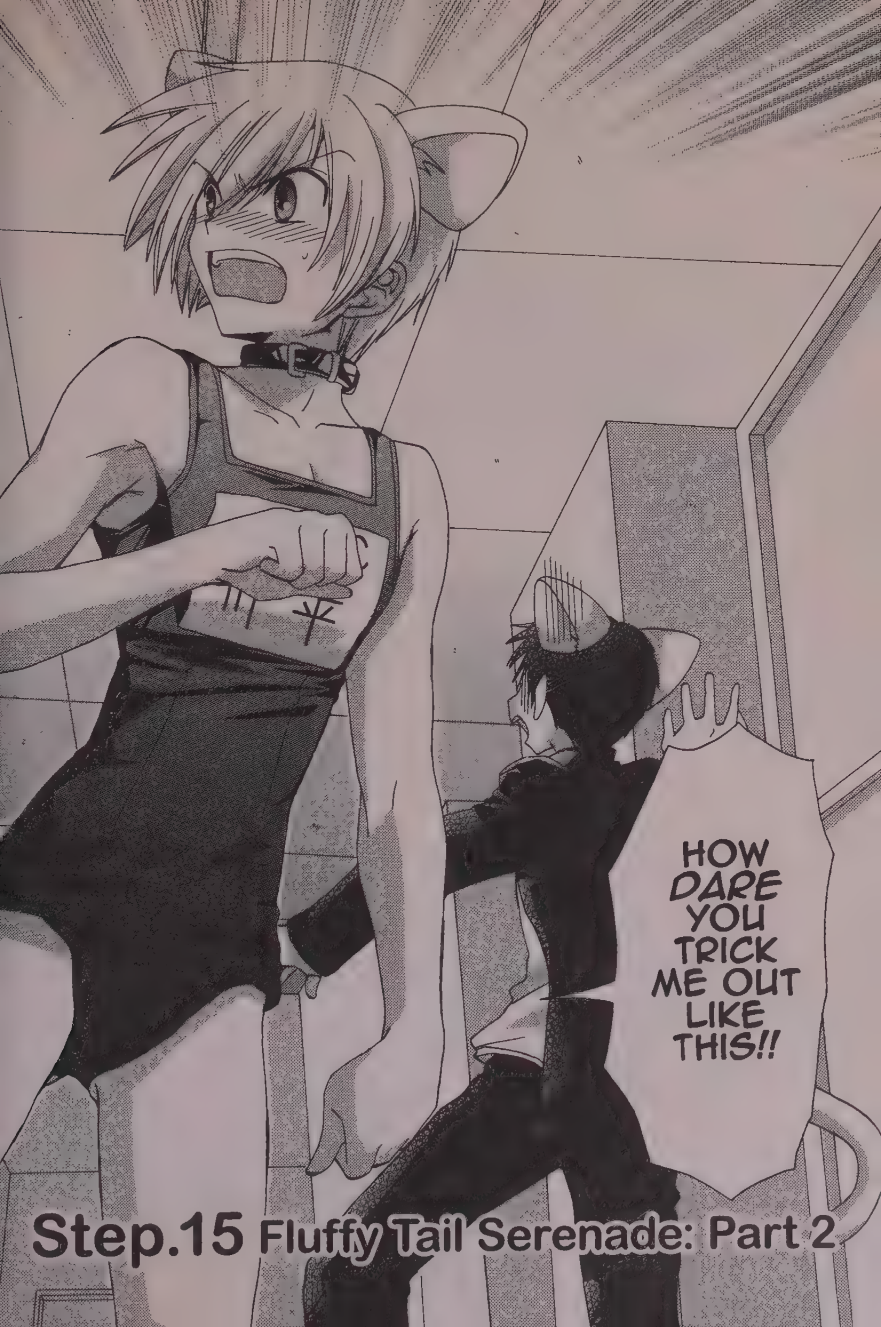
'07. JANUARY
KANNA WAKATSUKI

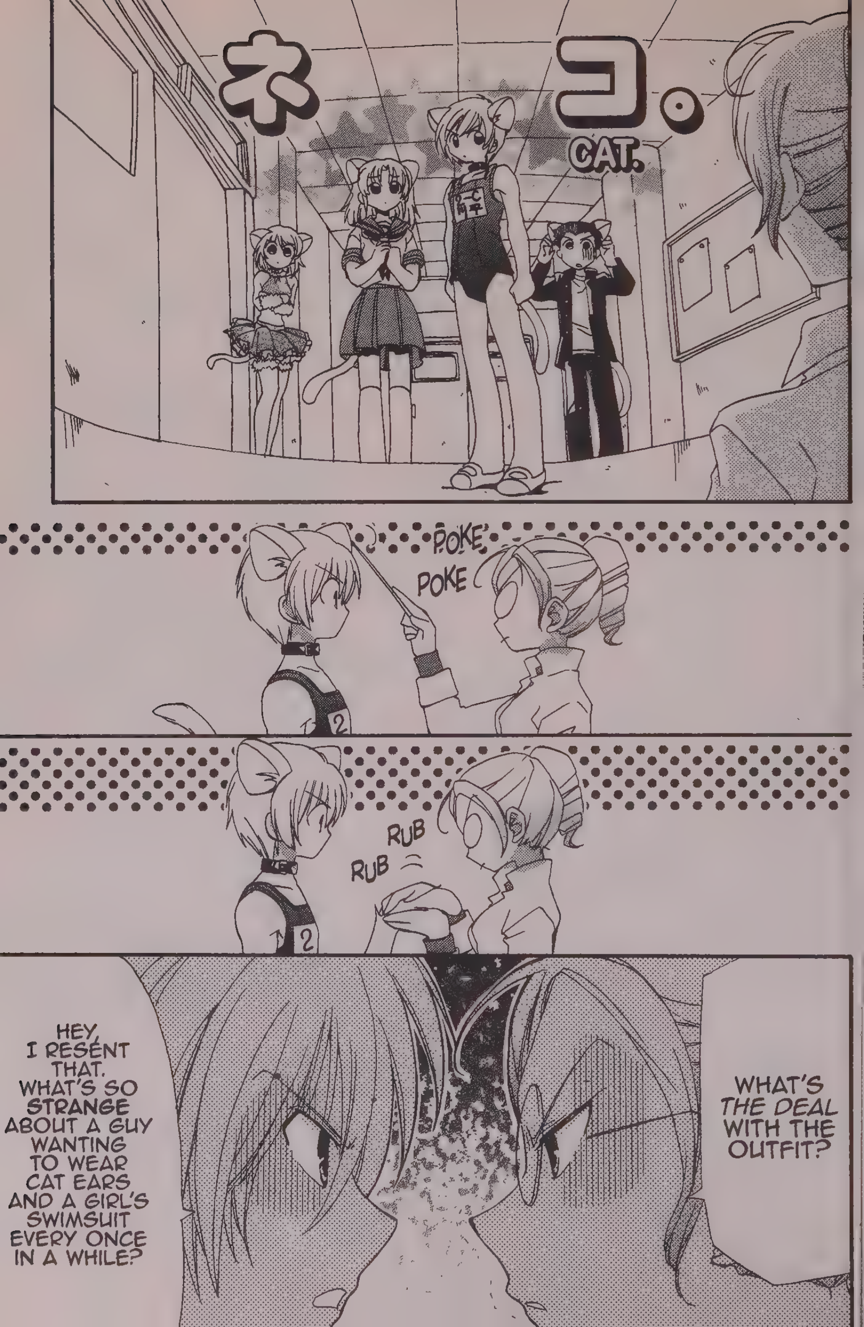


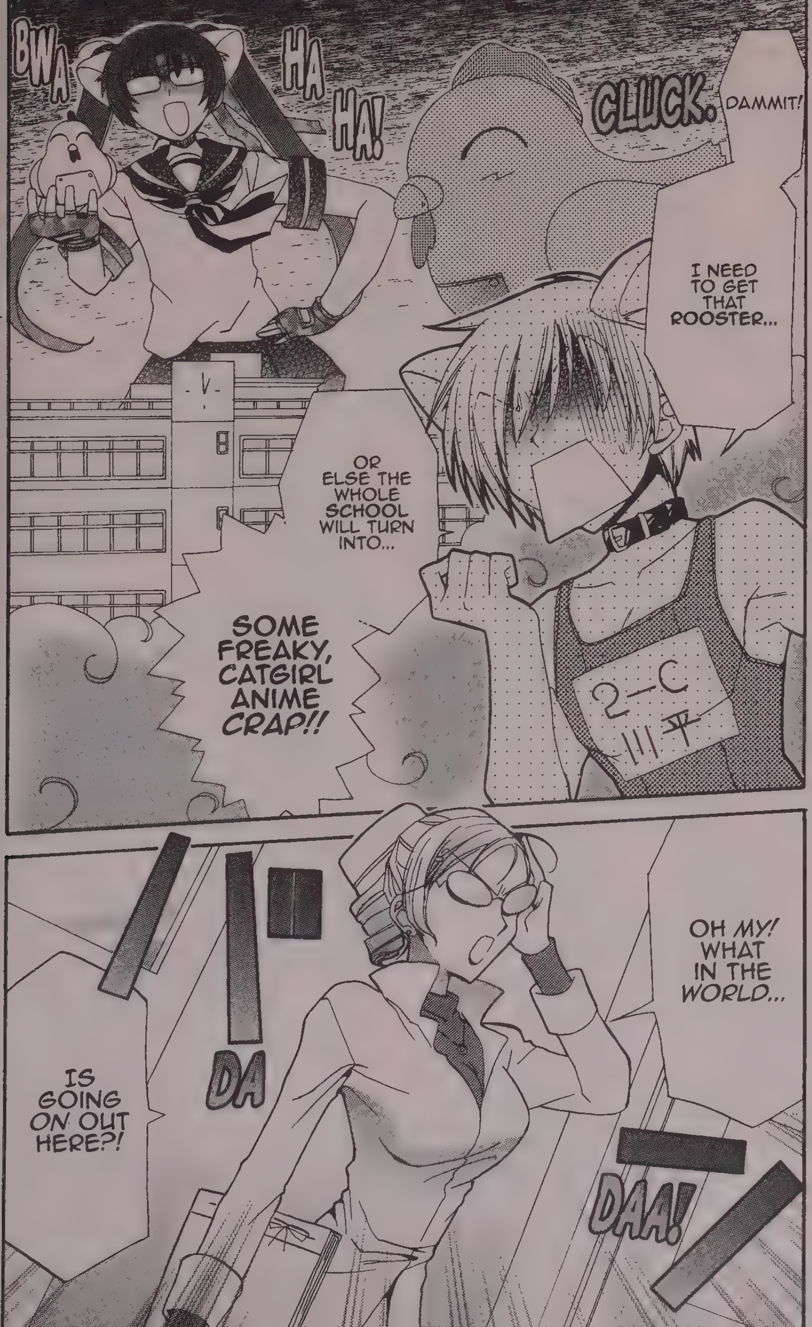
LET'S GO OUT TO PLAY AGAIN!♪

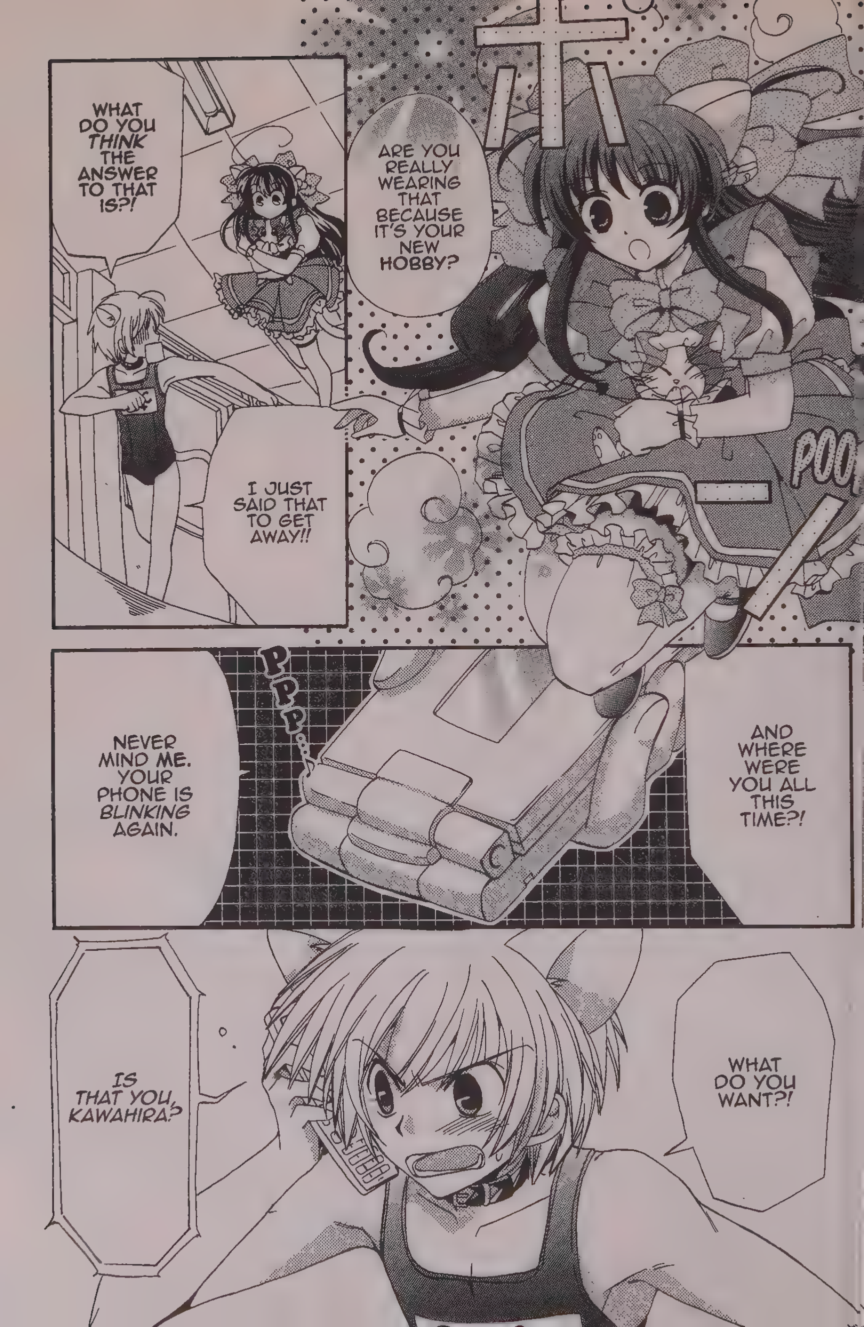

AH HA HA HA HA HA HA!
HA
HA
WHERE THE HELL IS HE?!

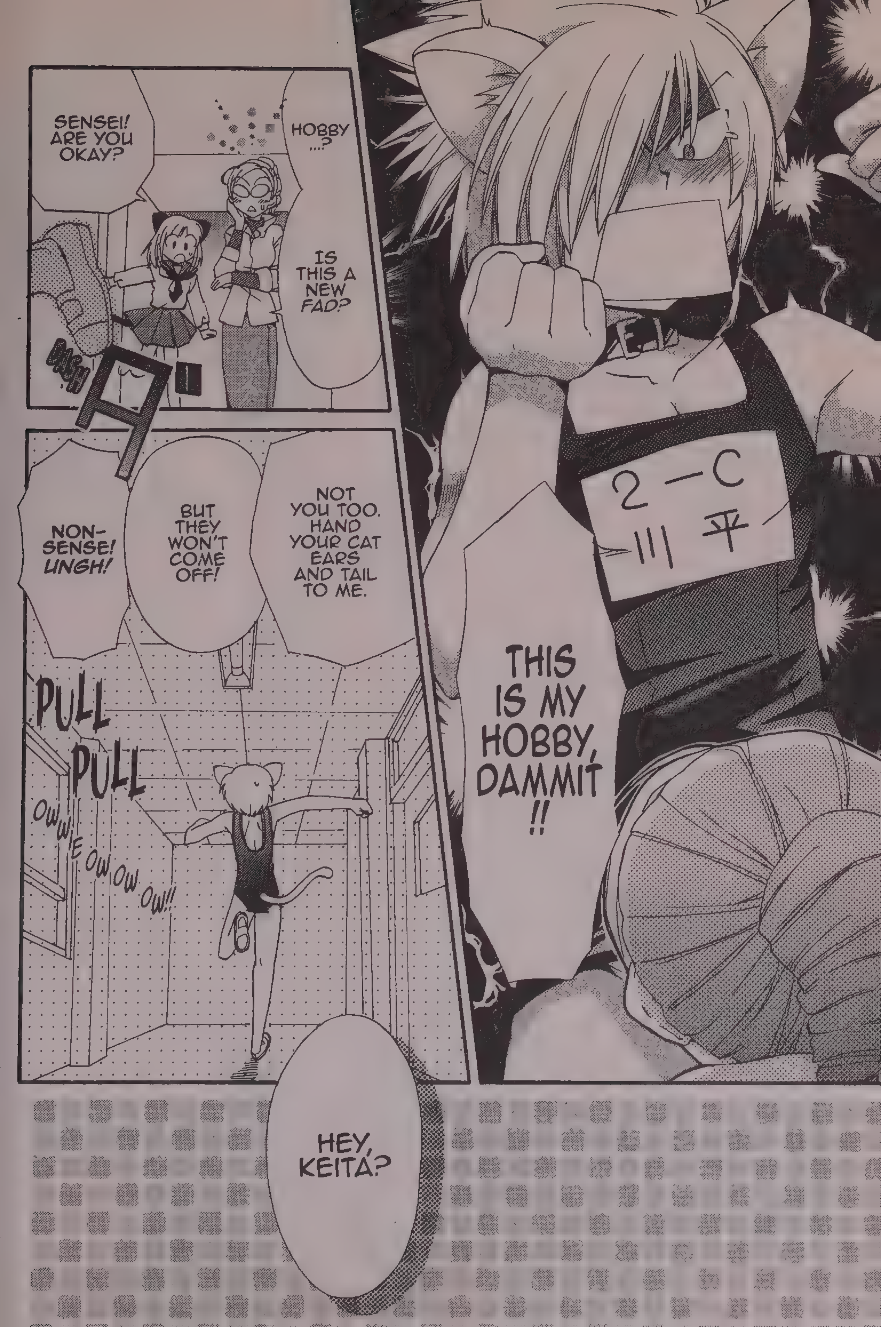
Step.15 Fluffy Tail Serenade: Part 2

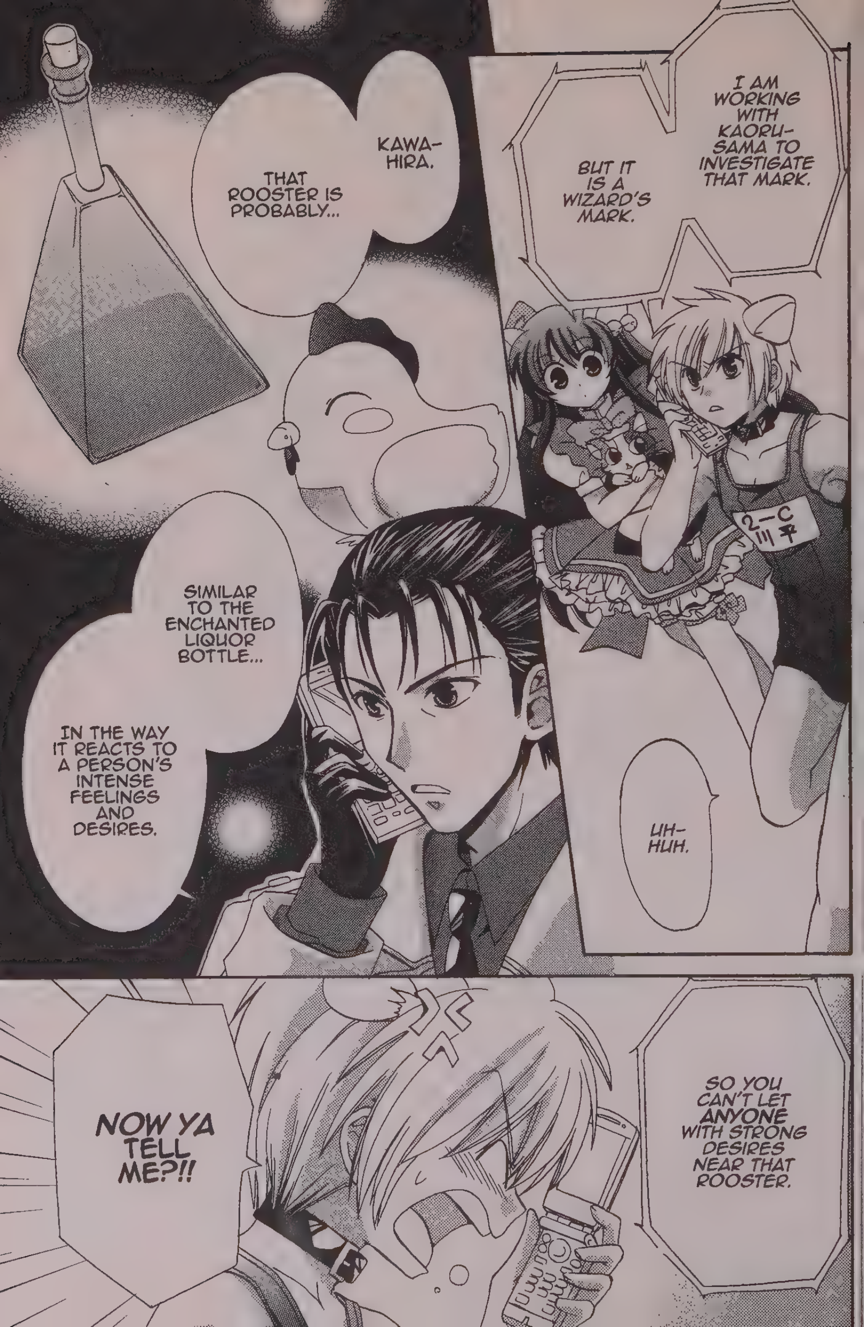

HOW DARE YOU TRICK ME OUT LIKE THIS!!

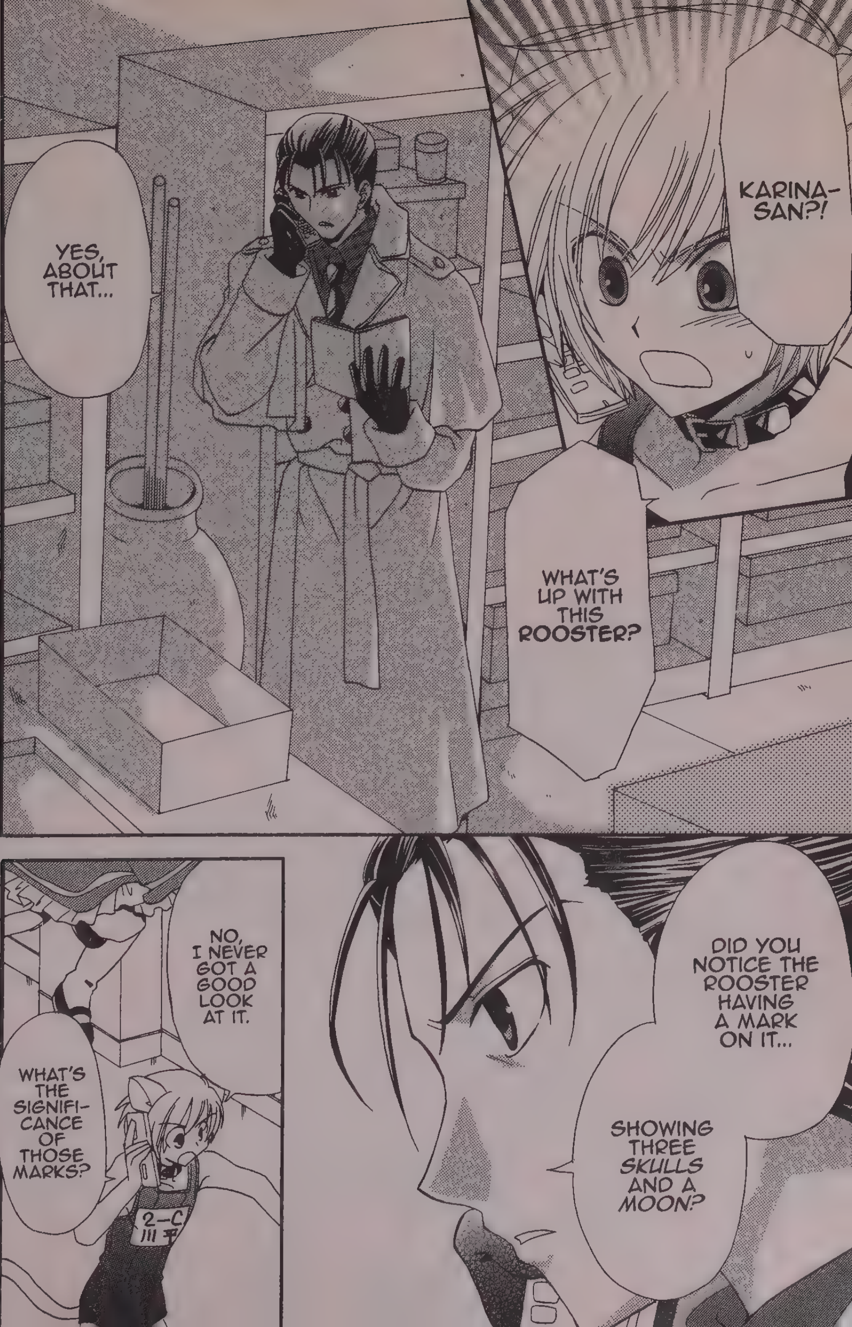

ネコ。
CAT.
POKE
POKE
RUB
RUB
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE OUTFIT?
HEY, I RESENT THAT. WHAT'S SO STRANGE ABOUT A GUY WANTING TO WEAR CAT EARS AND A GIRL'S SWIMSUIT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE?

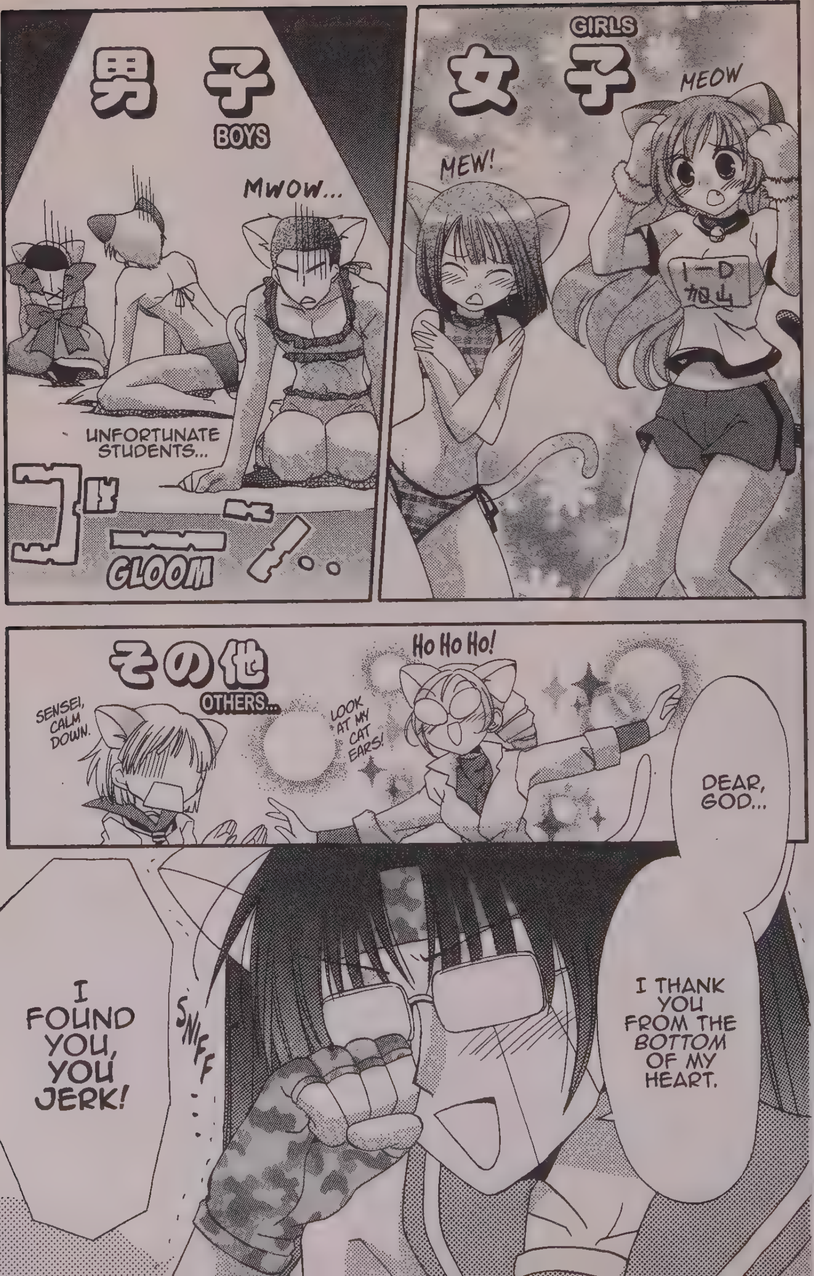

DAMMIT!
CLUCK.
I NEED TO GET THAT ROOSTER...
BWA HA HA!
OR ELSE THE WHOLE SCHOOL WILL TURN INTO...
SOME FREAKY, CATGIRL ANIME *CRAP!!*
2-C
川平
OH *MY!* WHAT IN THE *WORLD...*
DA
DAA!
IS GOING *ON* OUT HERE?!

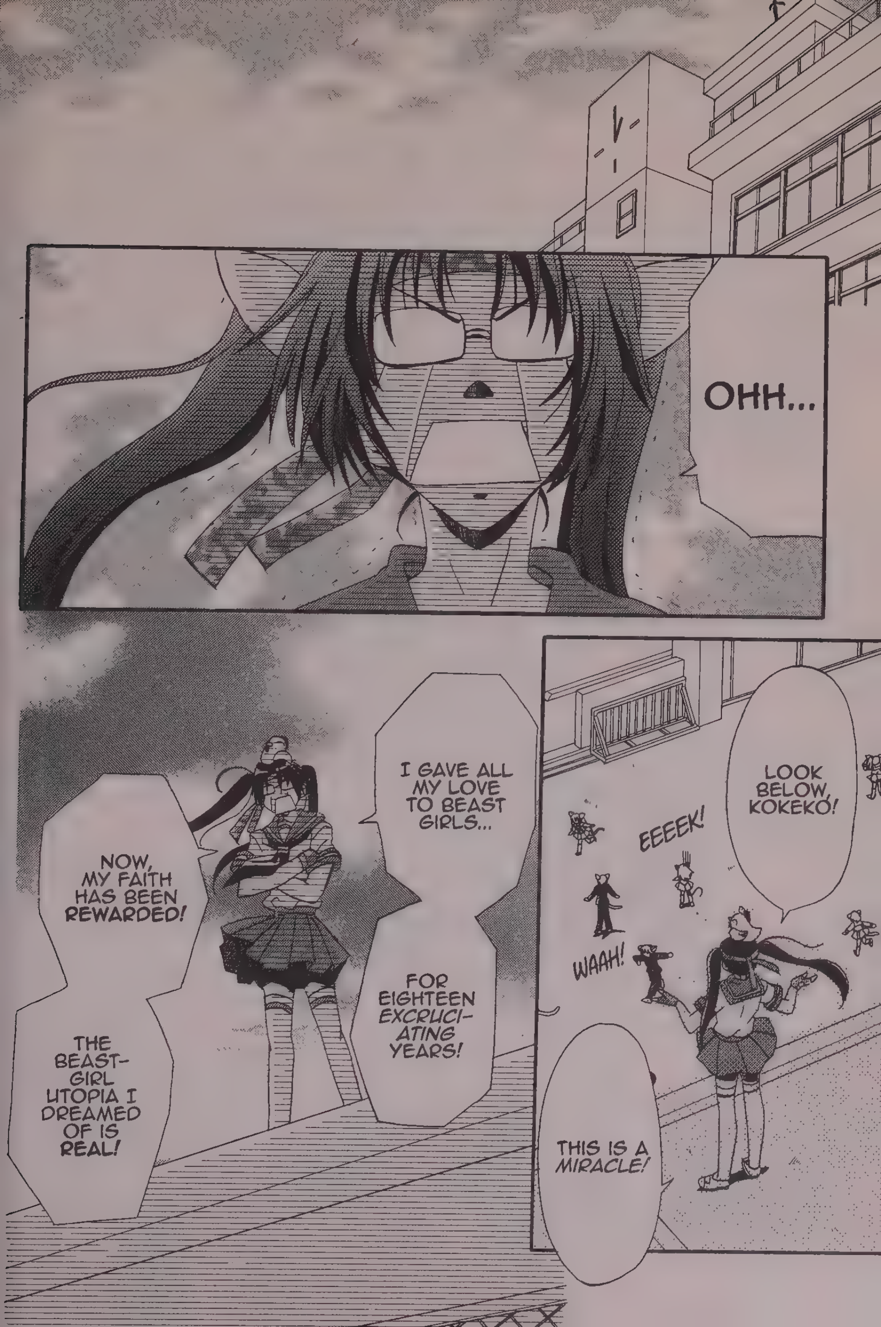

ARE YOU REALLY WEARING THAT BECAUSE IT'S YOUR NEW HOBBY?
WHAT DO YOU *THINK* THE ANSWER TO THAT IS?!
I JUST SAID THAT TO GET AWAY!!
POO
AND WHERE WERE YOU ALL THIS TIME?!
NEVER MIND ME. YOUR PHONE IS *BLINKING* AGAIN.
PPP...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
IS THAT YOU, KAWAHIRA?

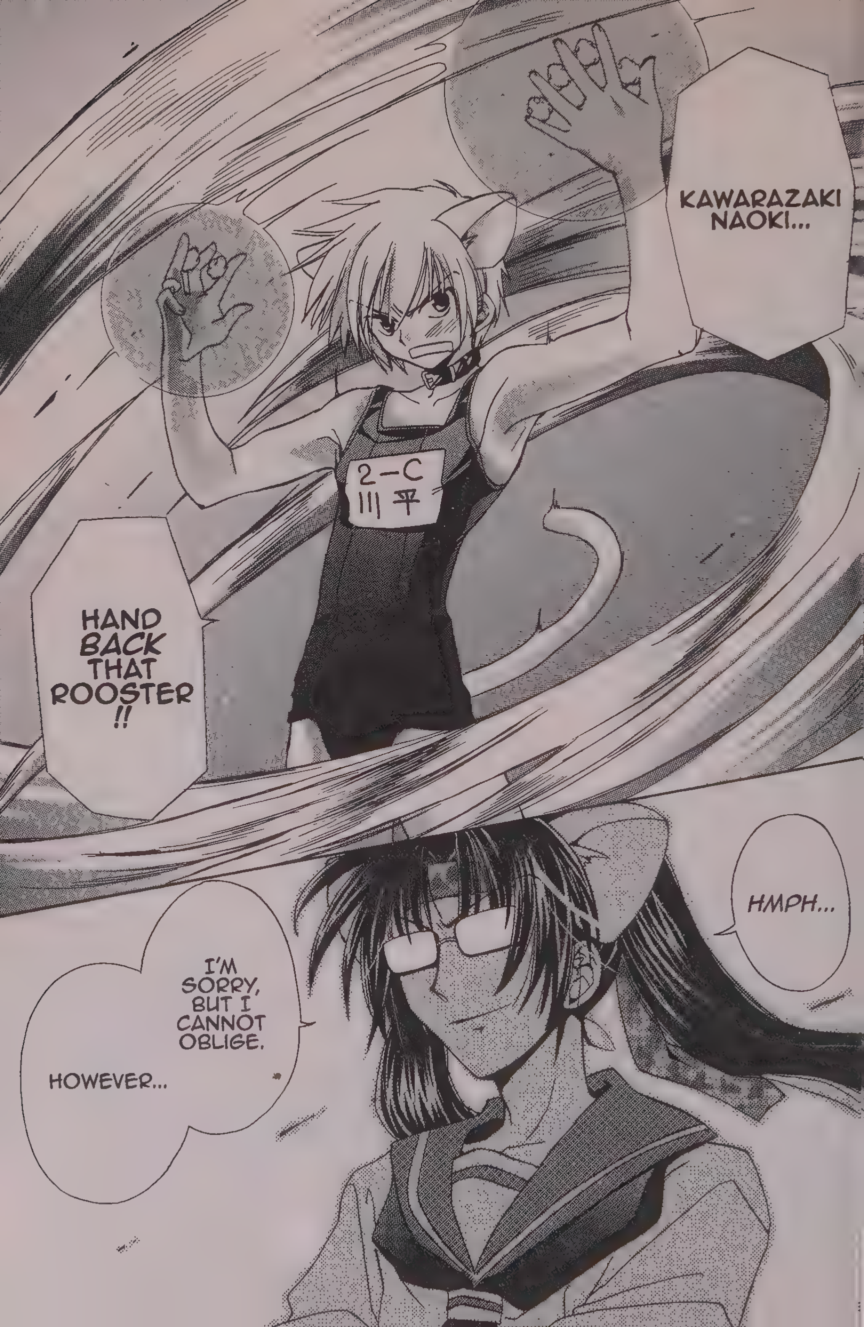

THIS IS MY HOBBY, DAMMIT!!
2-C
川平
HOBBY ...?
IS THIS A NEW *FAD?*
SENSEI! ARE YOU OKAY?
DASH
NOT YOU TOO. HAND YOUR CAT EARS AND TAIL TO ME.
BUT THEY WON'T COME OFF!
NON-SENSE! *UNGH!*
PULL
PULL
OWWIE OW OW OW!!
HEY, KEITA?

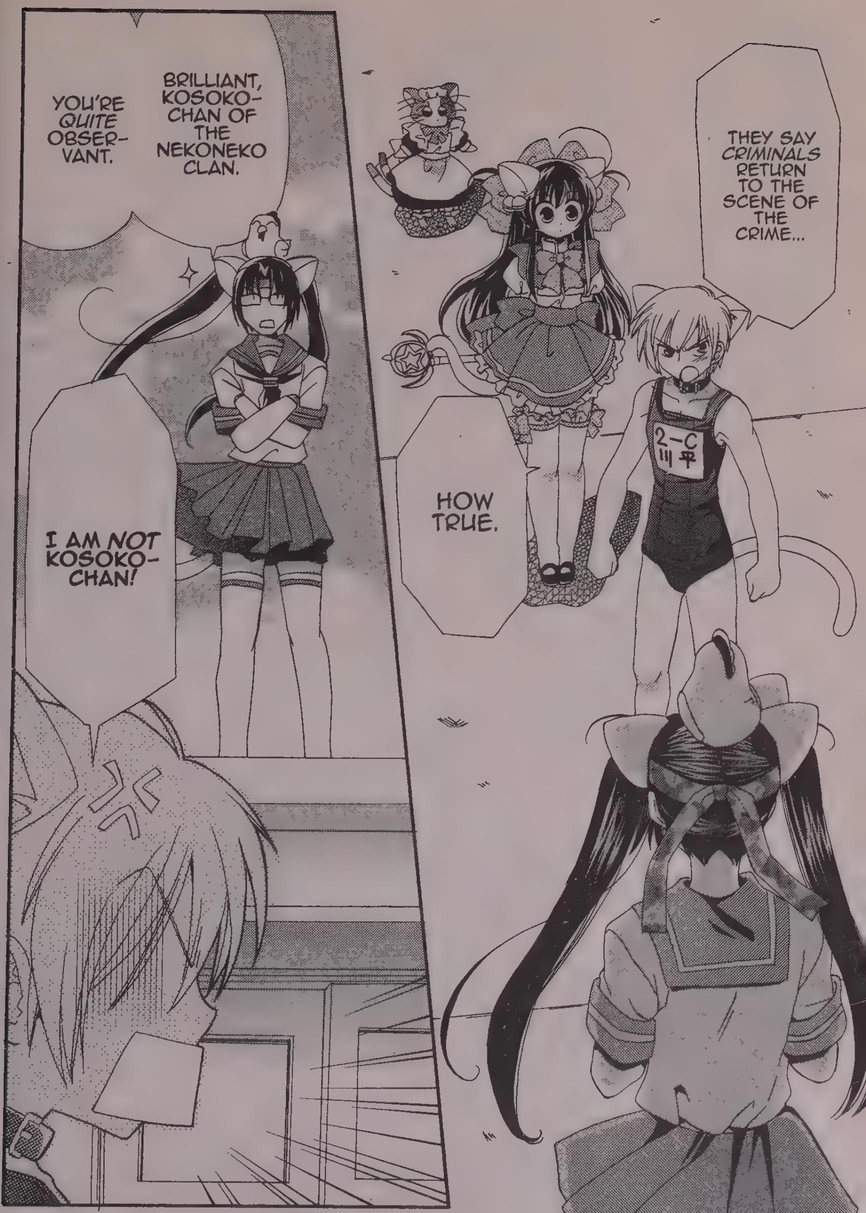

I AM WORKING WITH KAORU-SAMA TO INVESTIGATE THAT MARK.
BUT IT IS A WIZARD'S MARK.
2—C 川平
UH-HUH.
KAWA-HIRA.
THAT ROOSTER IS PROBABLY...
SIMILAR TO THE ENCHANTED LIQUOR BOTTLE...
IN THE WAY IT REACTS TO A PERSON'S INTENSE FEELINGS AND DESIRES.
SO YOU CAN'T LET **ANYONE** WITH STRONG DESIRES NEAR THAT ROOSTER.
NOW YA TELL ME?!!

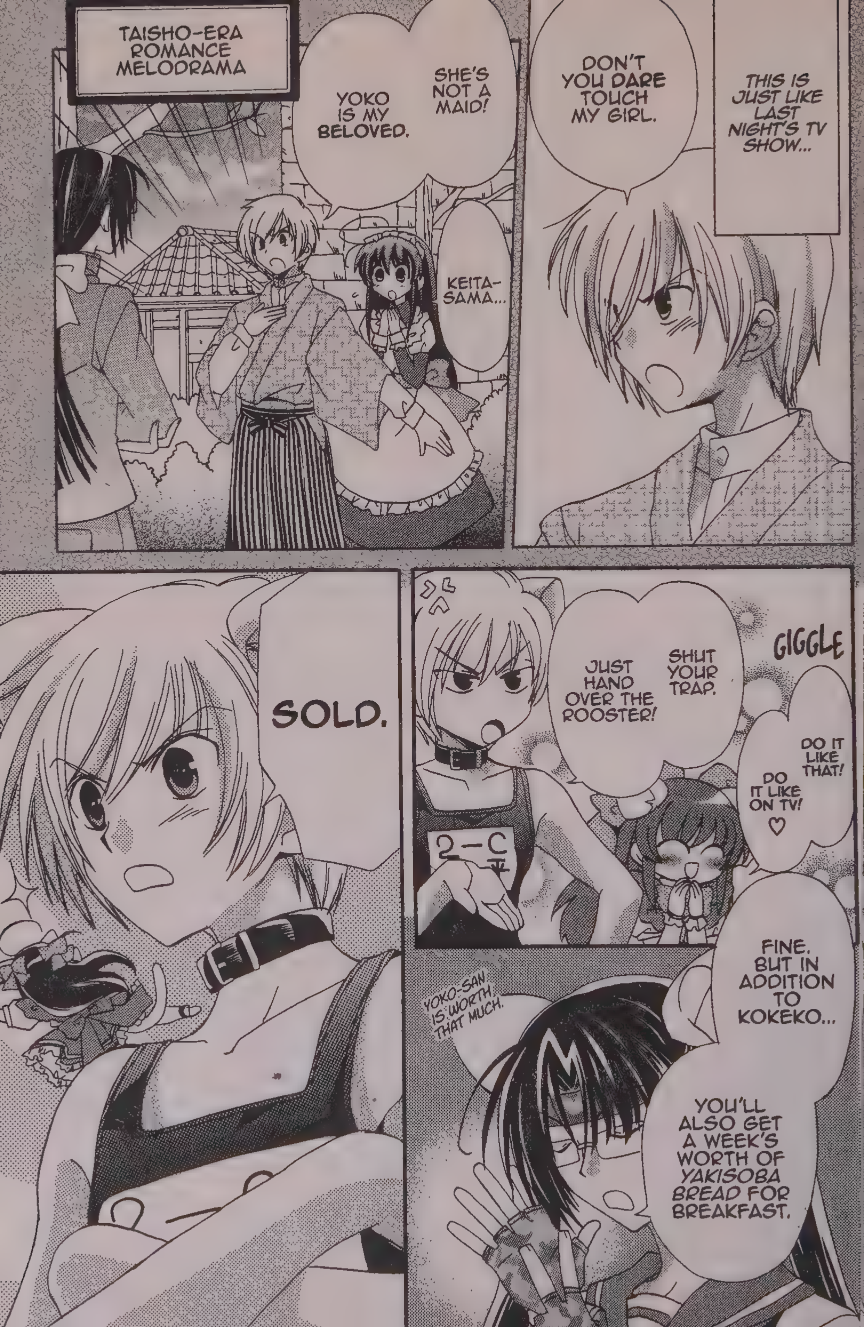

KARINA-SAN?!
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS ROOSTER?
YES, ABOUT THAT...
DID YOU NOTICE THE ROOSTER HAVING A MARK ON IT...
SHOWING THREE SKULLS AND A MOON?
NO, I NEVER GOT A GOOD LOOK AT IT.
WHAT'S THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THOSE MARKS?
2-C 川平

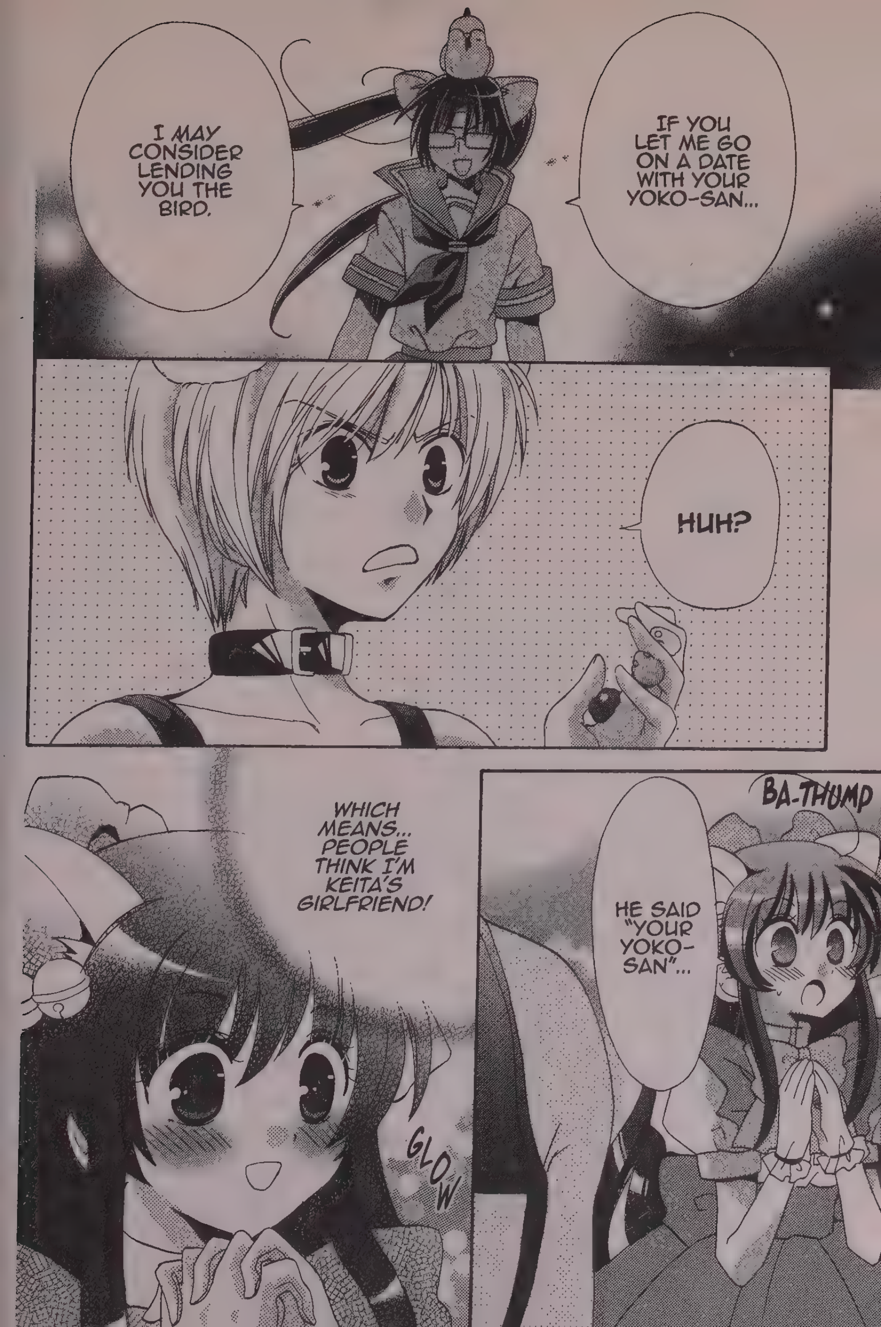

女子
GIRLS
MEOW
1-D 加山
MEW!
男子
BOYS
MWOW...
UNFORTUNATE STUDENTS...
GLOOM
その他
OTHERS...
Ho Ho Ho!
LOOK AT MY CAT EARS!
SENSEI, CALM DOWN.
DEAR, GOD...
I THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
SNIFF...
I FOUND YOU, YOU JERK!

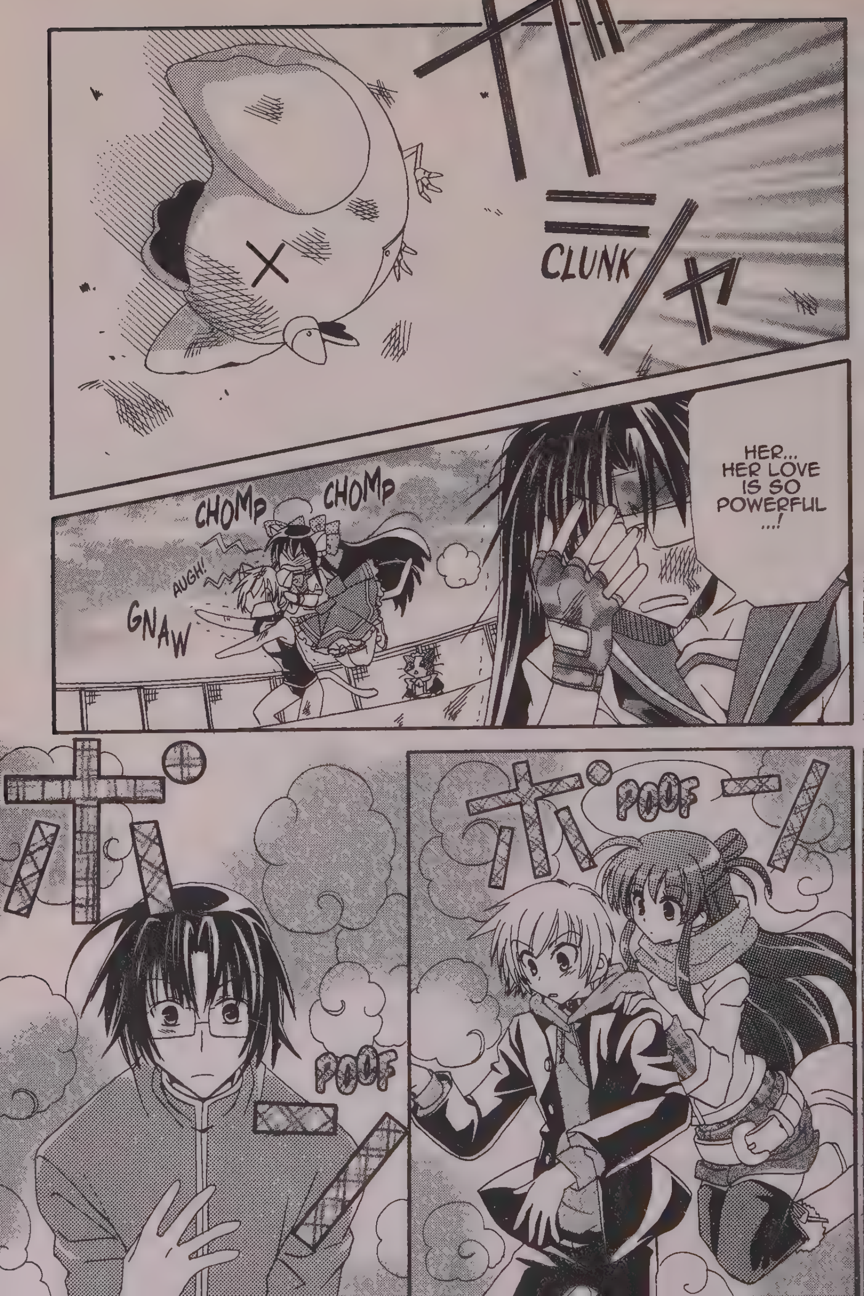

OHH...
LOOK BELOW, KOKEKO!
EEEEK!
WAAH!
THIS IS A MIRACLE!
I GAVE ALL MY LOVE TO BEAST GIRLS...
FOR EIGHTEEN EXCRUCIATING YEARS!
NOW, MY FAITH HAS BEEN REWARDED!
THE BEAST-GIRL UTOPIA I DREAMED OF IS REAL!

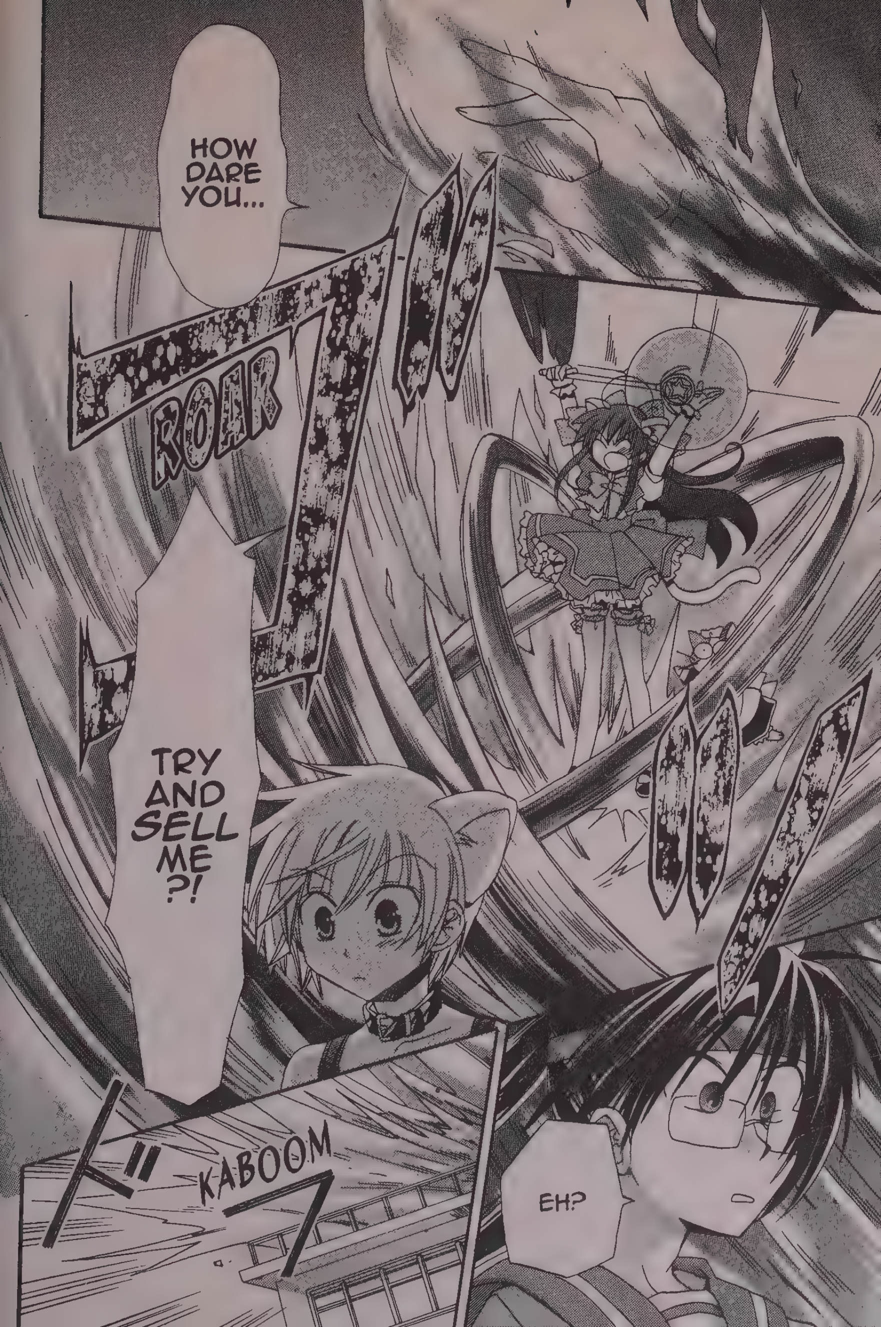

KAWARAZAKI NAOKI...
2-C
川平
HAND BACK THAT ROOSTER !!
HMPH...
I'M SORRY, BUT I CANNOT OBLIGE.
HOWEVER...

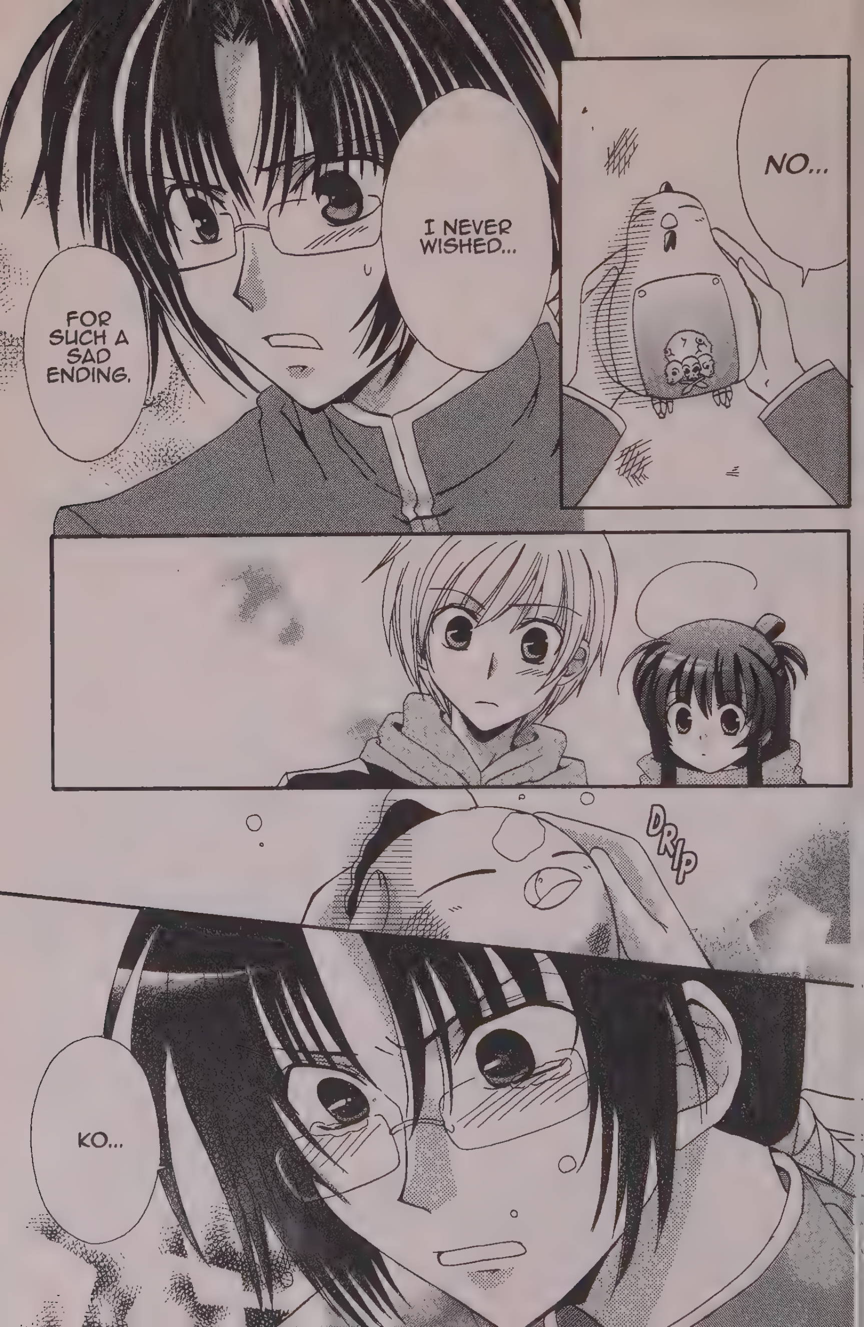

THEY SAY CRIMINALS RETURN TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...
HOW TRUE.
2-C 川平
BRILLIANT, KOSOKO-CHAN OF THE NEKONEKO CLAN.
YOU'RE QUITE OBSERVANT.
I AM NOT KOSOKO-CHAN!

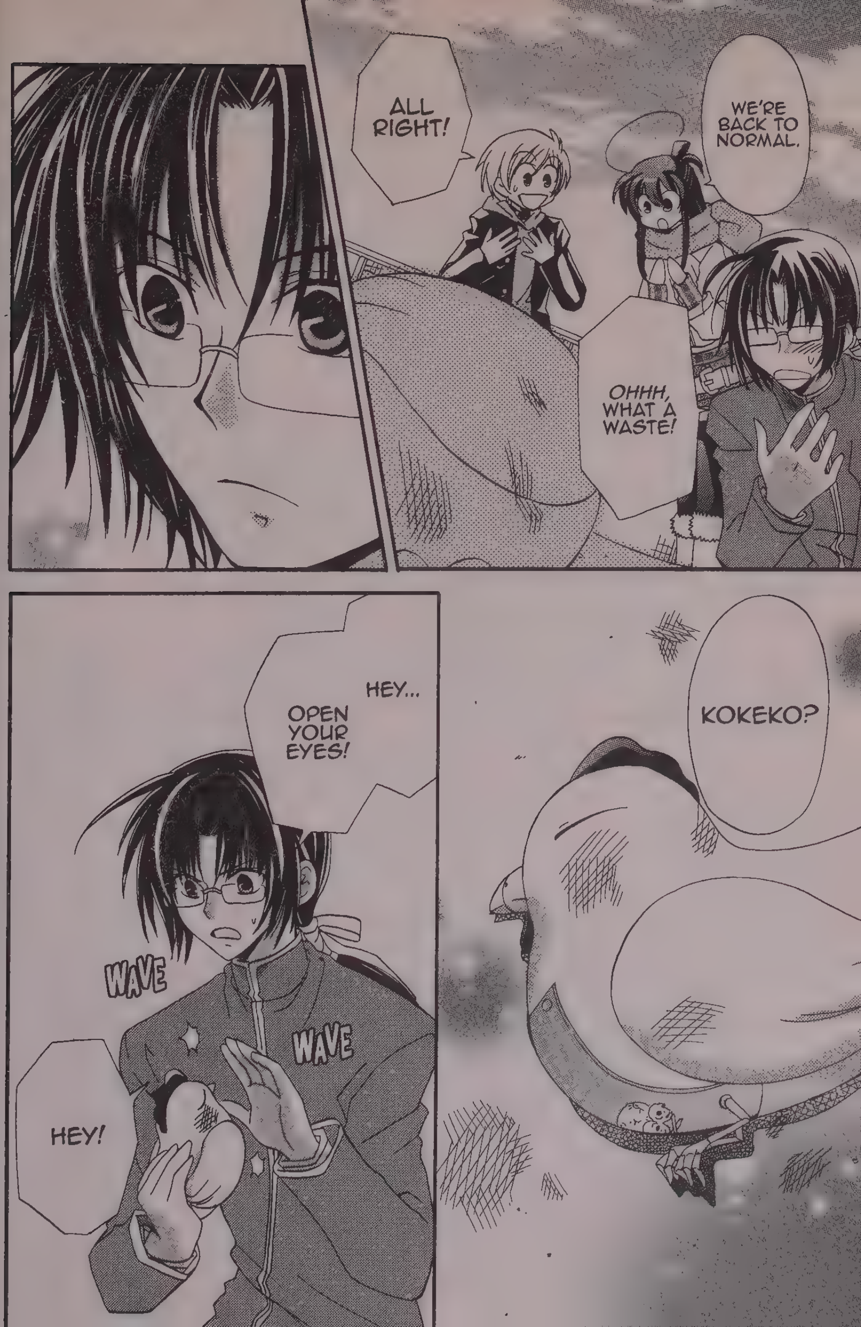

THIS IS JUST LIKE LAST NIGHT'S TV SHOW...
DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH MY GIRL.
TAISHO-ERA ROMANCE MELODRAMA
SHE'S NOT A MAID!
YOKO IS MY BELOVED.
KEITA-SAMA...
SHUT YOUR TRAP.
JUST HAND OVER THE ROOSTER!
2-C
GIGGLE
DO IT LIKE THAT!
DO IT LIKE ON TV! ♡
FINE. BUT IN ADDITION TO KOKEKO...
YOU'LL ALSO GET A WEEK'S WORTH OF YAKISOBA BREAD FOR BREAKFAST.
YOKO-SAN IS WORTH THAT MUCH.
SOLD.

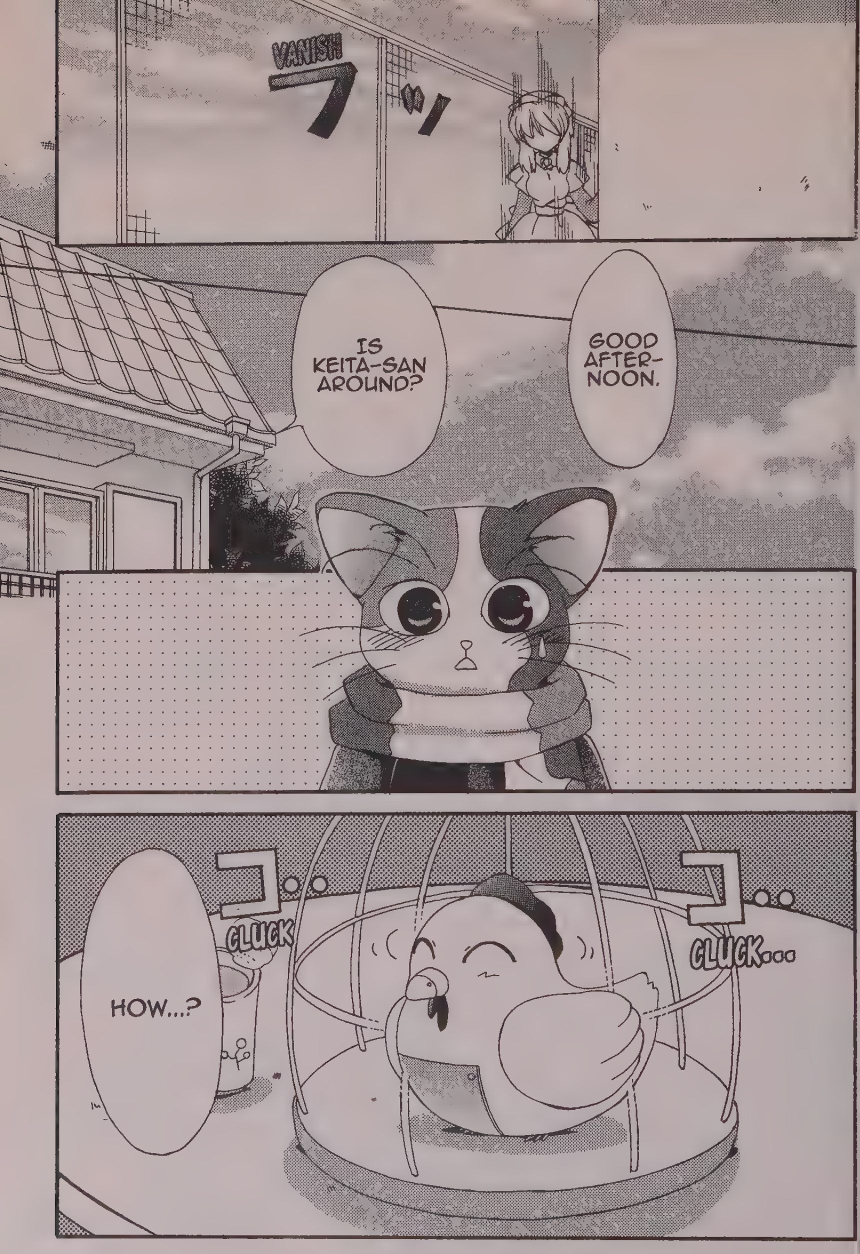

IF YOU LET ME GO ON A DATE WITH YOUR YOKO-SAN...
I MAY CONSIDER LENDING YOU THE BIRD.
HUH?
BA-THUMP
HE SAID "YOUR YOKO-SAN"...
WHICH MEANS... PEOPLE THINK I'M KEITA'S GIRLFRIEND!
GLOW

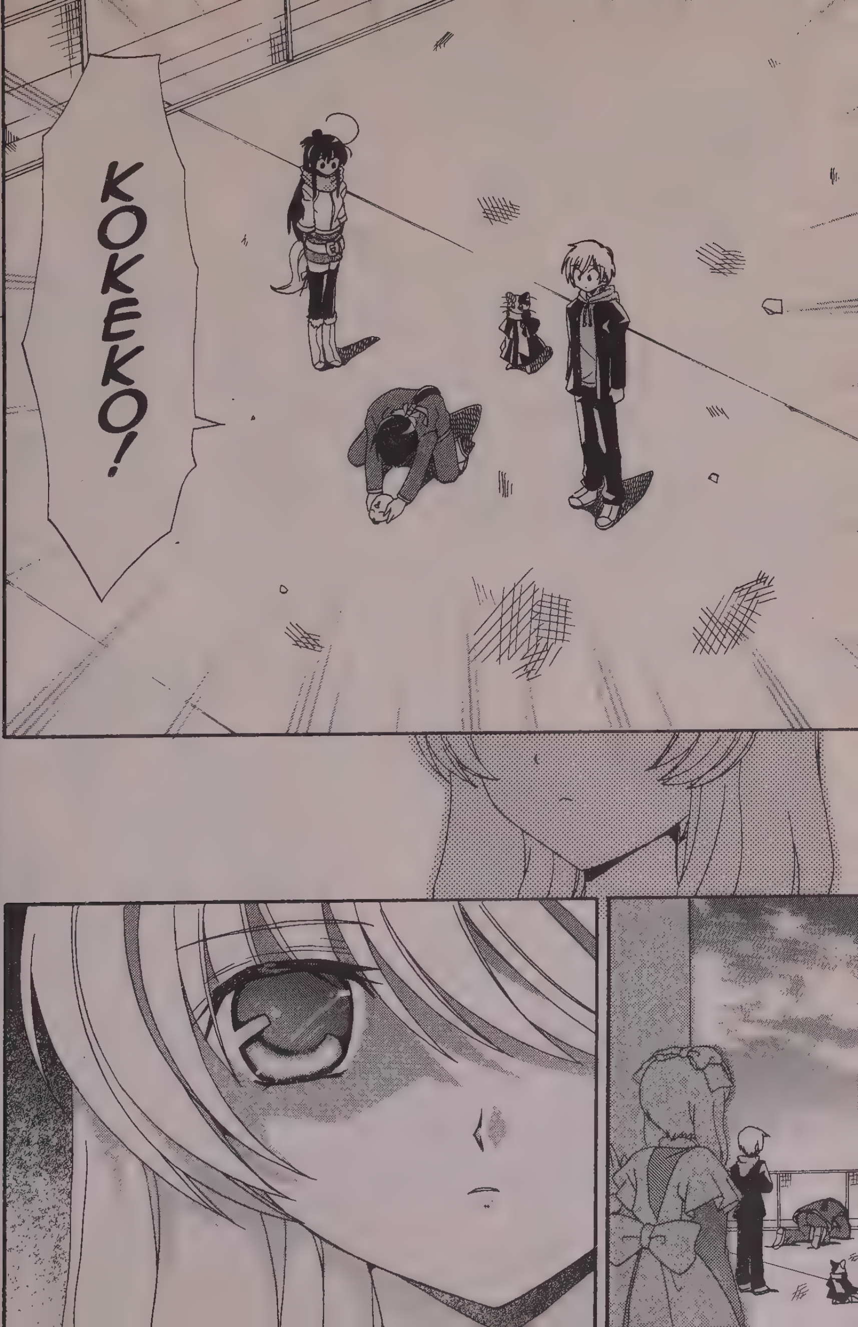

ガシャ
CLUNK
HER... HER LOVE IS SO POWERFUL ...!
CHOMP CHOMP
AUGH!
GNAW
ポポ
POOF
ポ
POOF

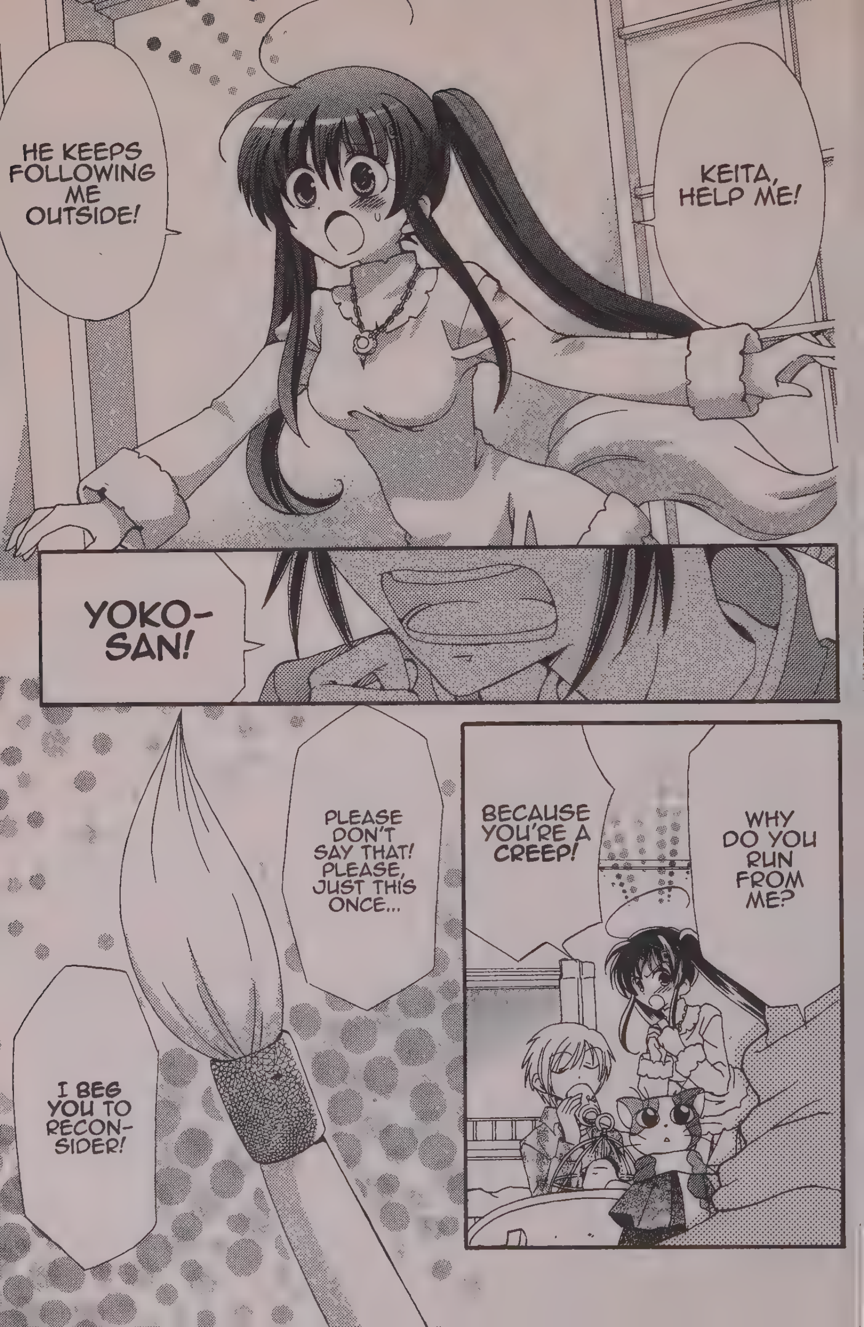

HOW DARE YOU...
ROAR
TRY AND SELL ME?!
KABOOM
EH?

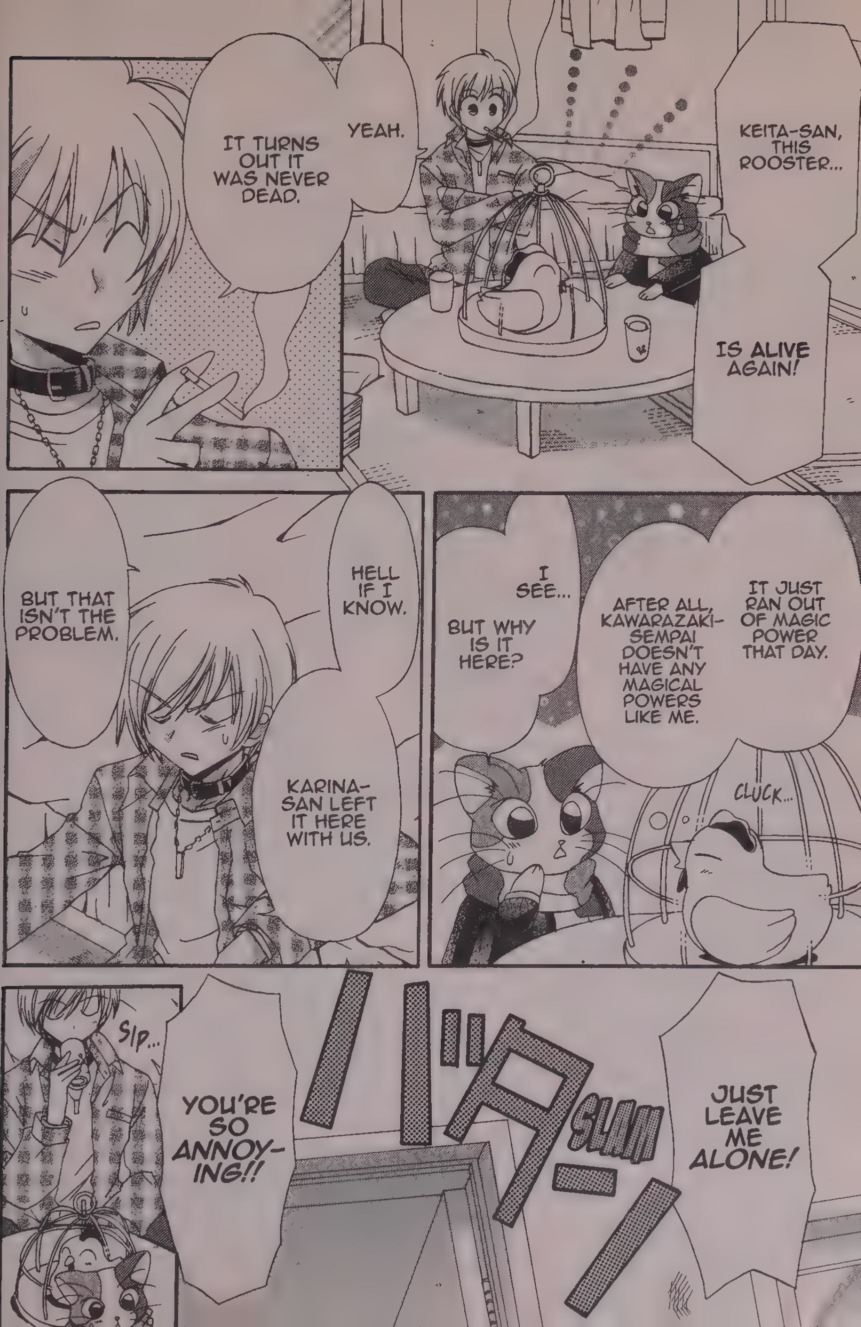

NO...
I NEVER WISHED...
FOR SUCH A SAD ENDING.
DRIP
KO...

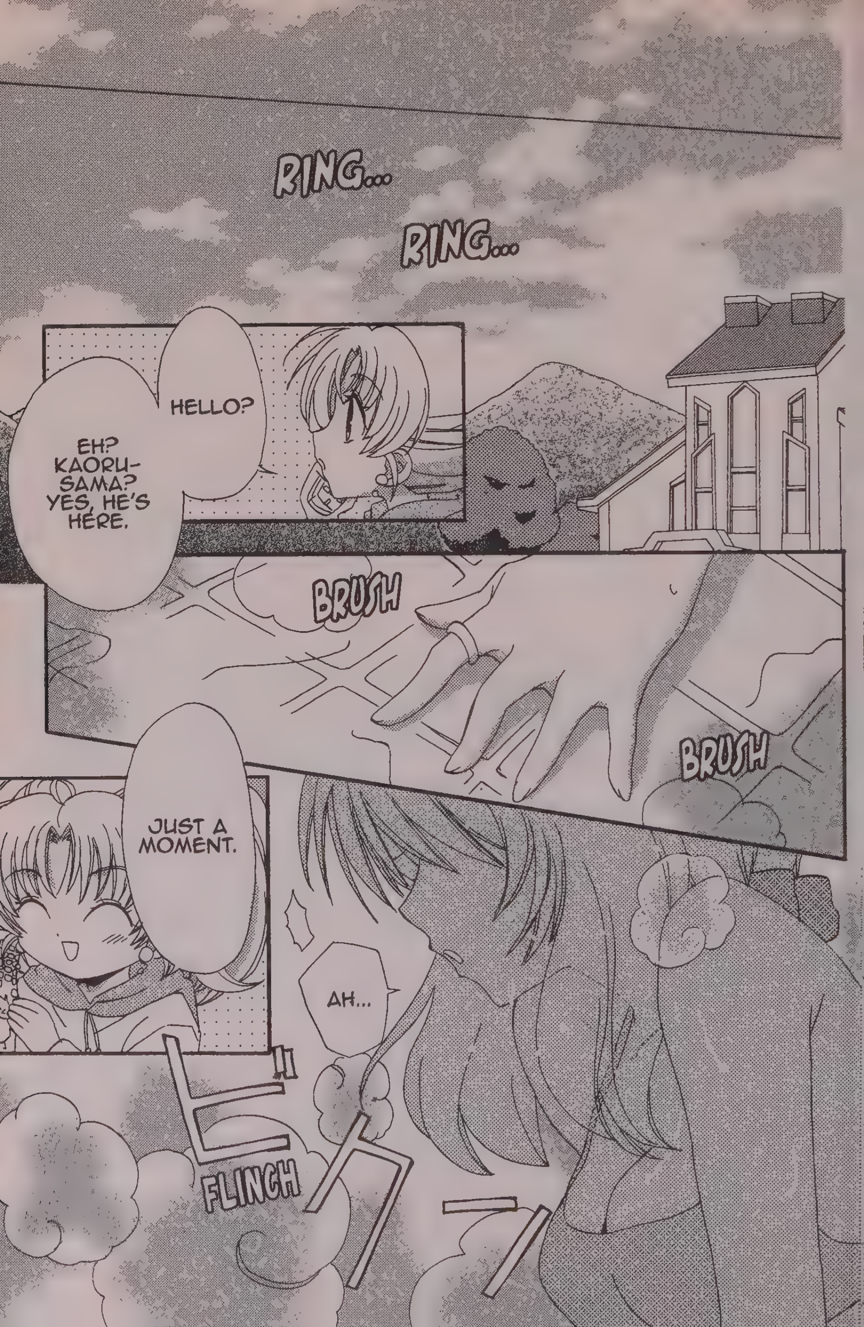

WE'RE BACK TO NORMAL.
ALL RIGHT!
OHHH, WHAT A WASTE!
KOKEKO?
HEY... OPEN YOUR EYES!
WAVE
WAVE
HEY!

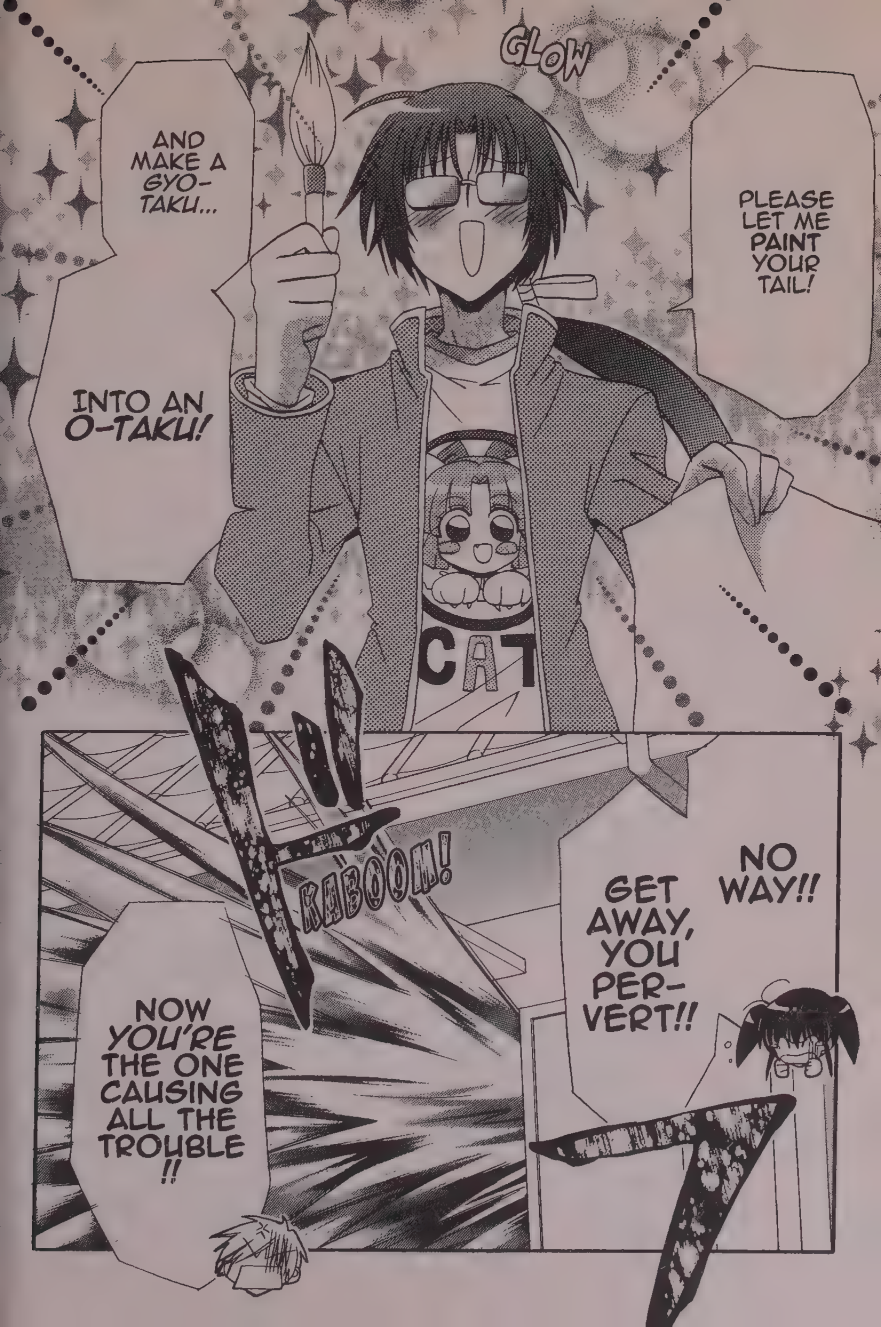

VANISH
フッ
GOOD AFTERNOON.
IS KEITA-SAN AROUND?
コ..
CLUCK
コ..
CLUCK...
HOW...?

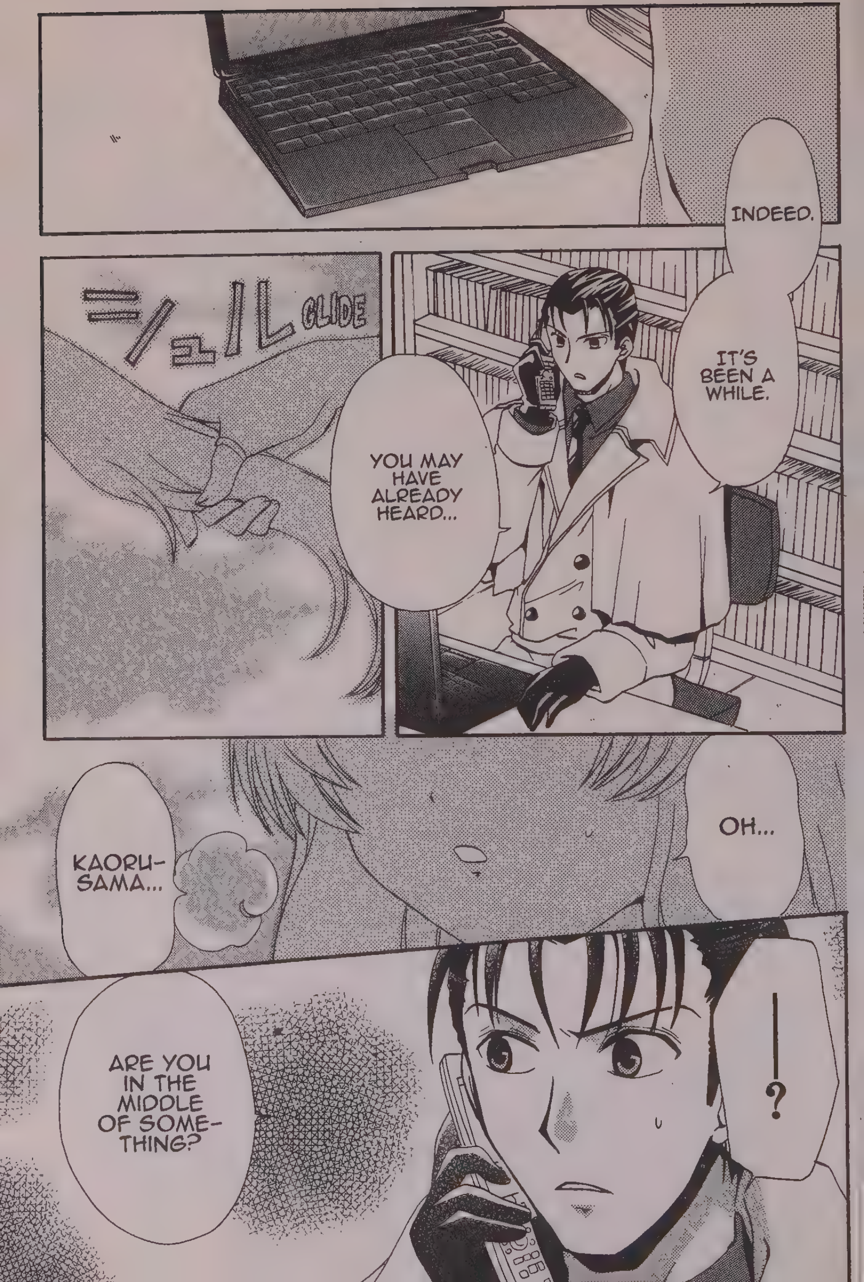

KOKEKO!

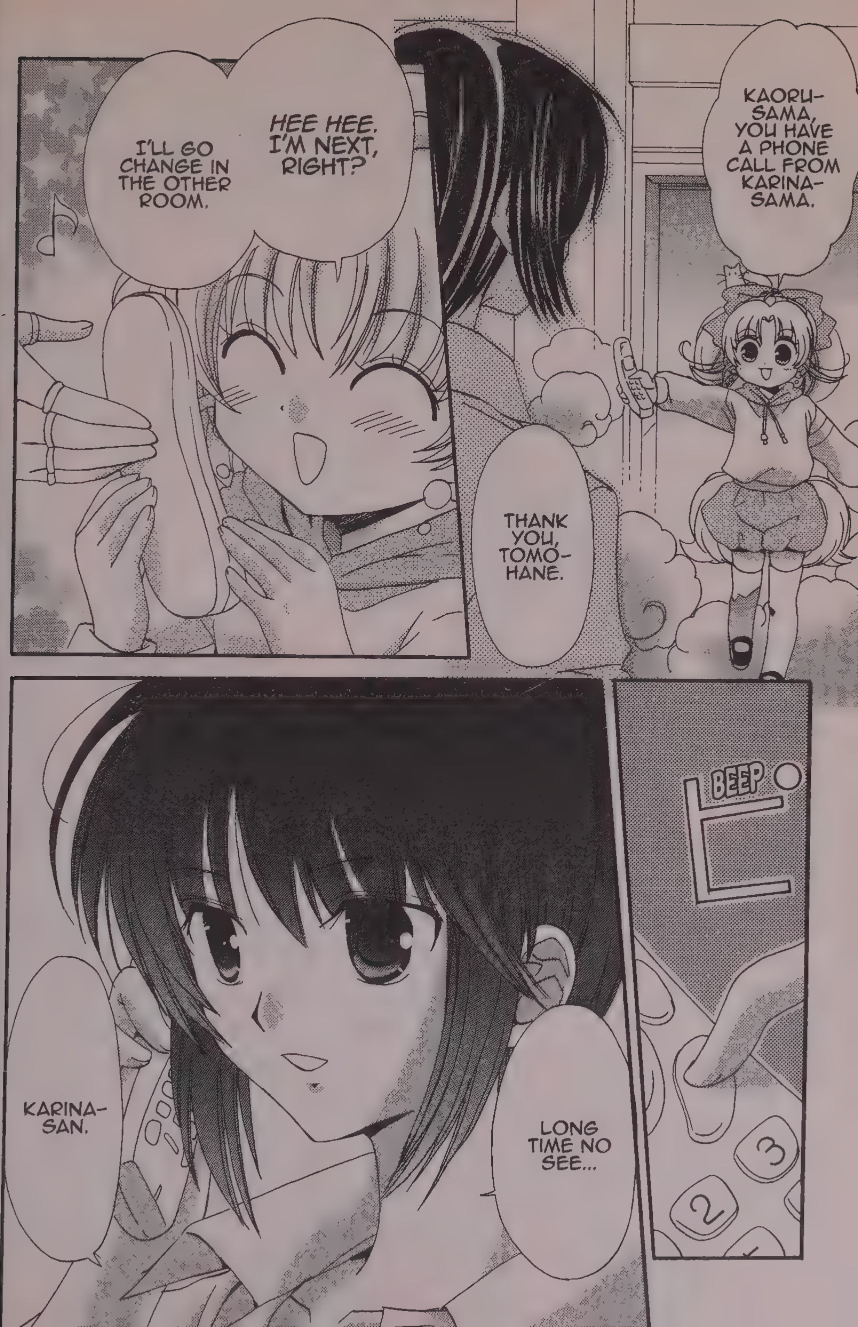

KEITA, HELP ME!
HE KEEPS FOLLOWING ME OUTSIDE!
YOKO-SAN!
WHY DO YOU RUN FROM ME?
BECAUSE YOU'RE A CREEP!
PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT! PLEASE, JUST THIS ONCE...
I BEG YOU TO RECONSIDER!

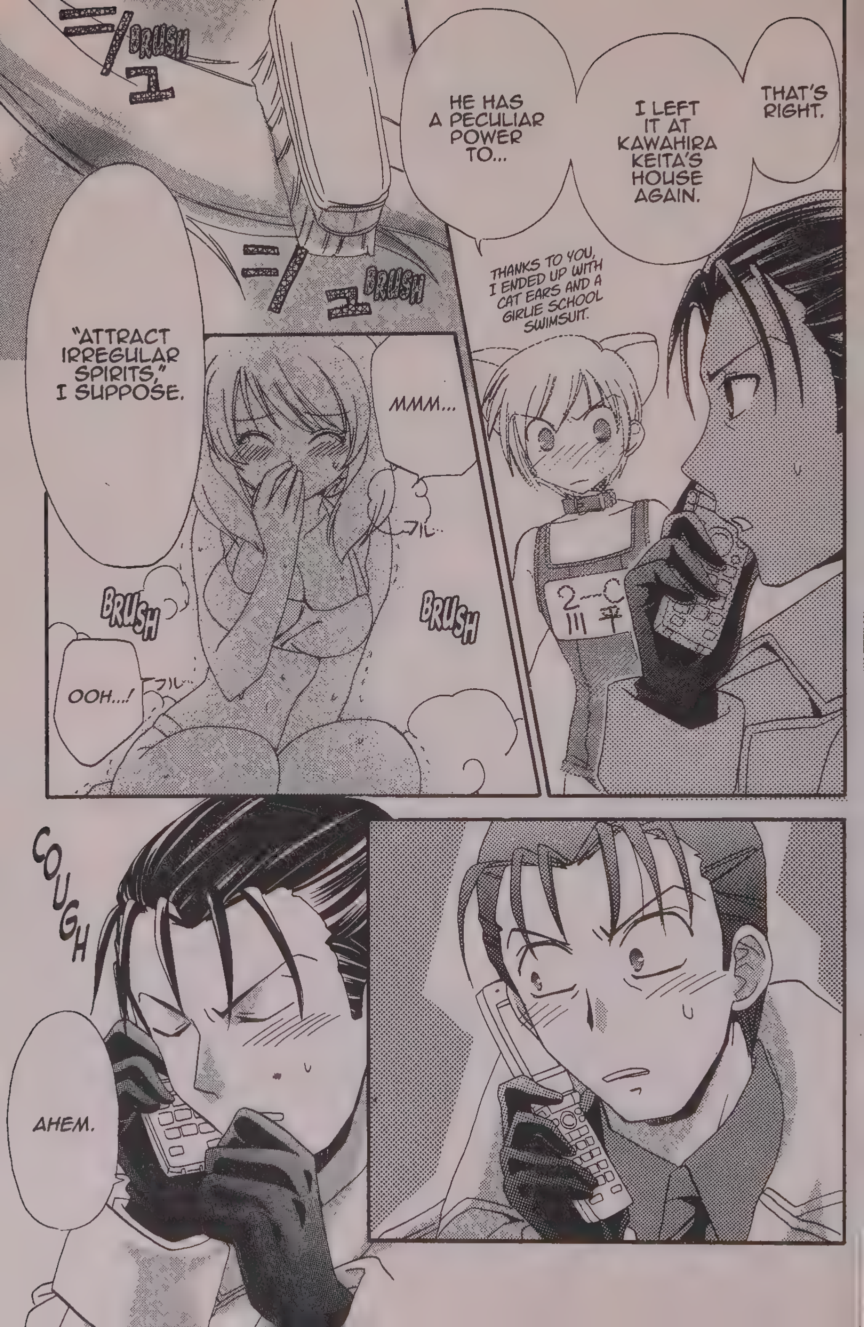

KEITA-SAN, THIS ROOSTER...
IS ALIVE AGAIN!
YEAH.
IT TURNS OUT IT WAS NEVER DEAD.
IT JUST RAN OUT OF MAGIC POWER THAT DAY.
AFTER ALL, KAWARAZAKI-SEMPAI DOESN'T HAVE ANY MAGICAL POWERS LIKE ME.
CLUCK...
I SEE...
BUT WHY IS IT HERE?
HELL IF I KNOW.
KARINA-SAN LEFT IT HERE WITH US.
BUT THAT ISN'T THE PROBLEM.
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
バターン
SLAM
YOU'RE SO ANNOYING!!
SIP...

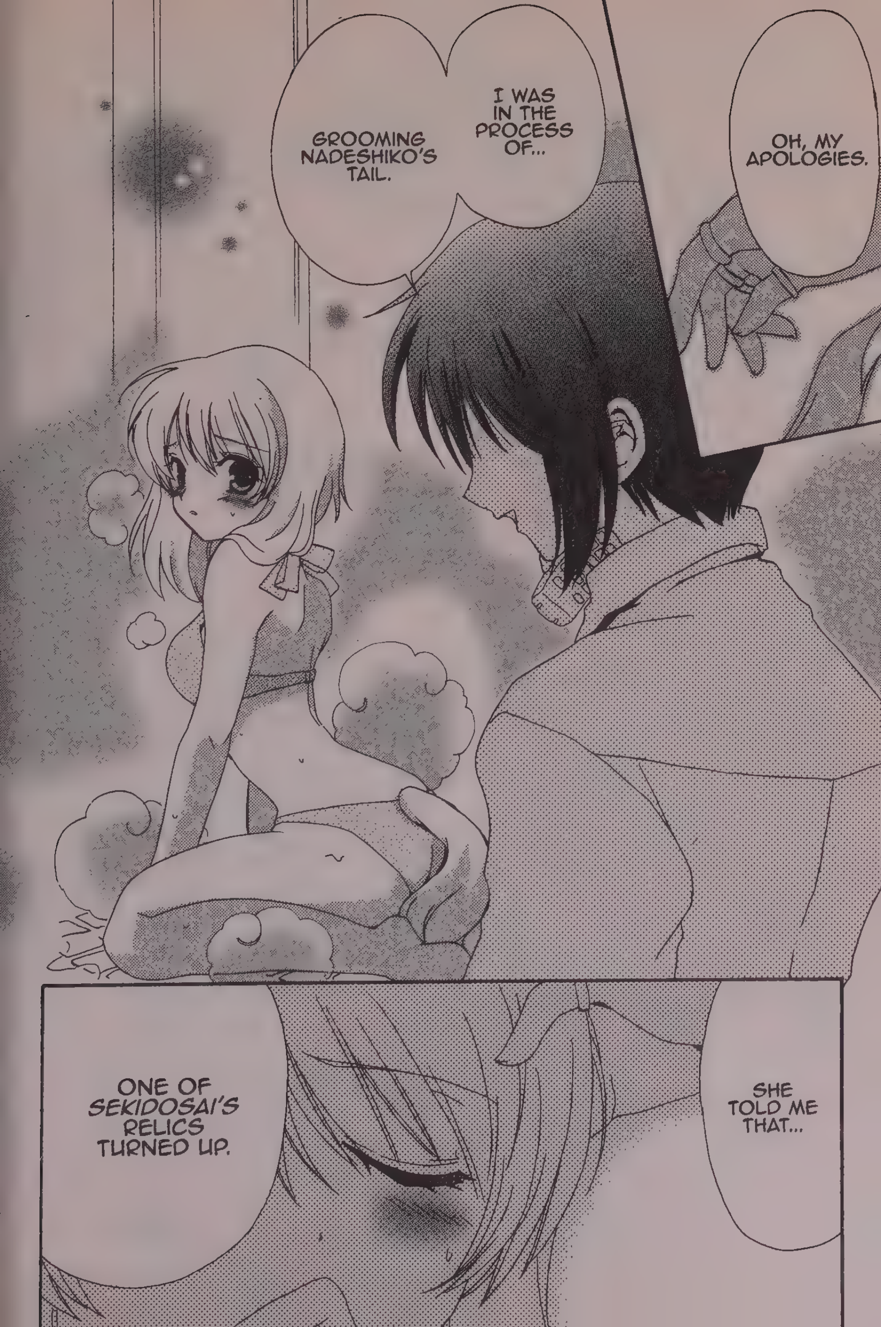

RING...
RING...
HELLO?
EH? KAORU-SAMA? YES, HE'S HERE.
BRUSH
BRUSH
JUST A MOMENT.
AH...
FLINCH

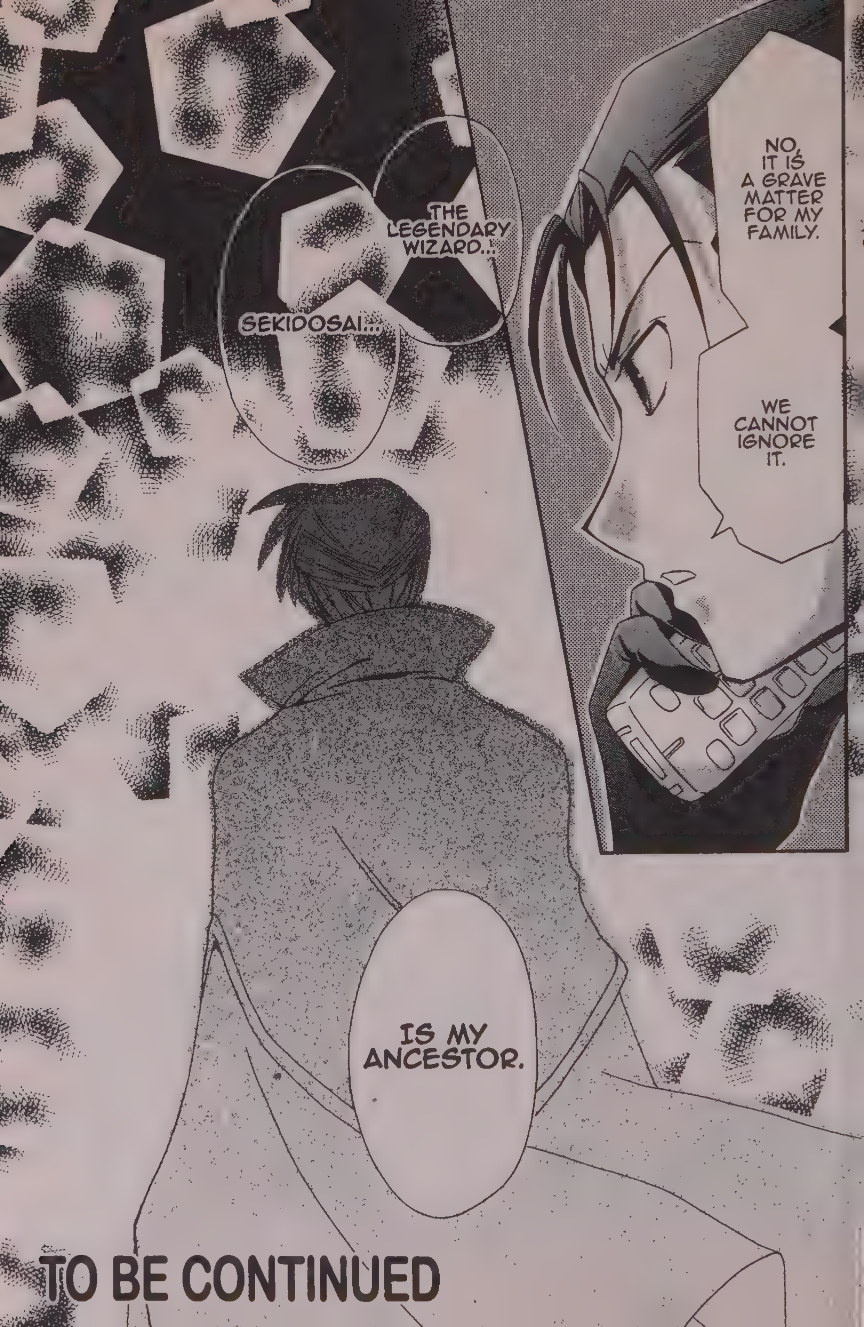

GLOW
PLEASE LET ME PAINT YOUR TAIL!
AND MAKE A GYO-TAKU...
INTO AN *O-TAKU!*
CAT
NO WAY!!
GET AWAY, YOU PER-VERT!!
KABOOM!
NOW *YOU'RE* THE ONE CAUSING ALL THE TROUBLE!!

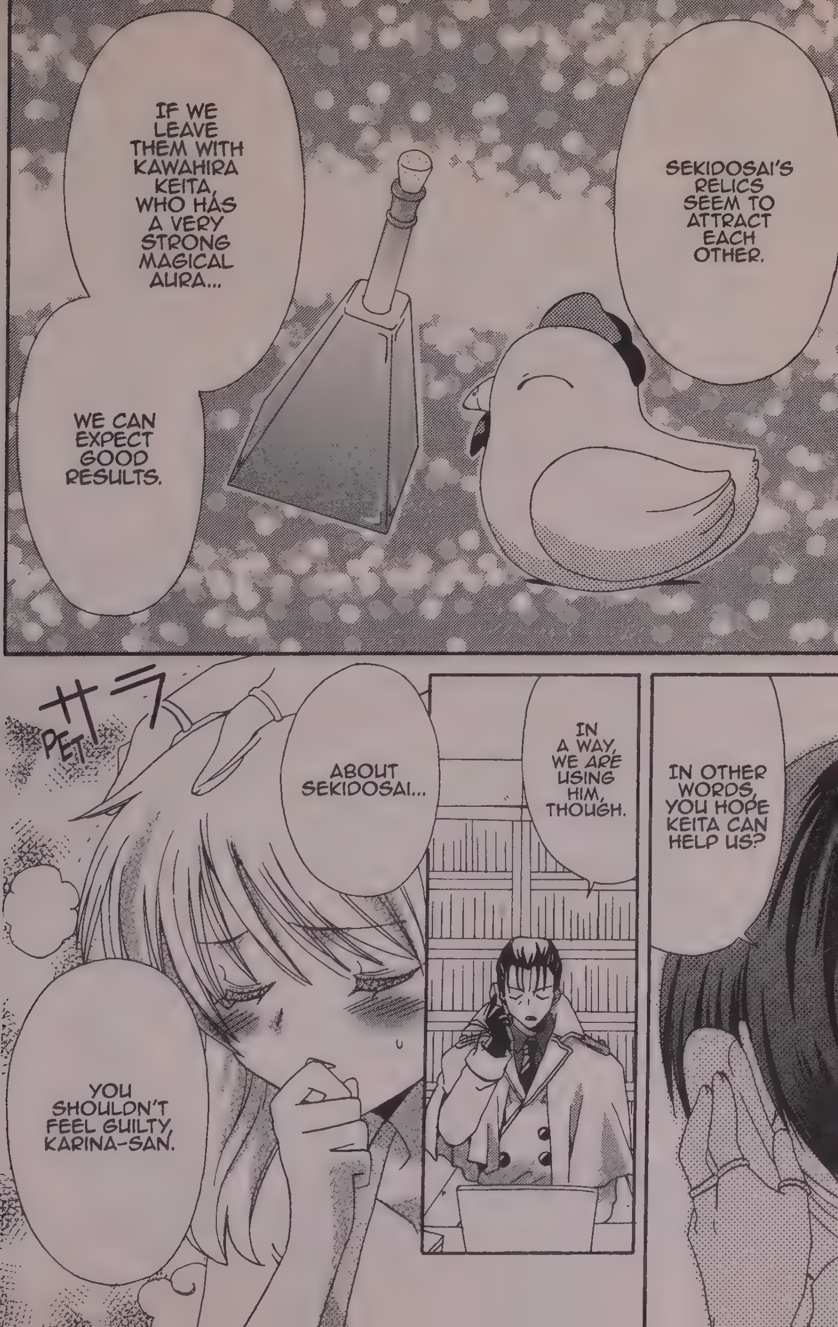

INDEED.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
YOU MAY HAVE ALREADY HEARD...
シュル GLIDE
OH...
KAORU-SAMA...
—?
ARE YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING?

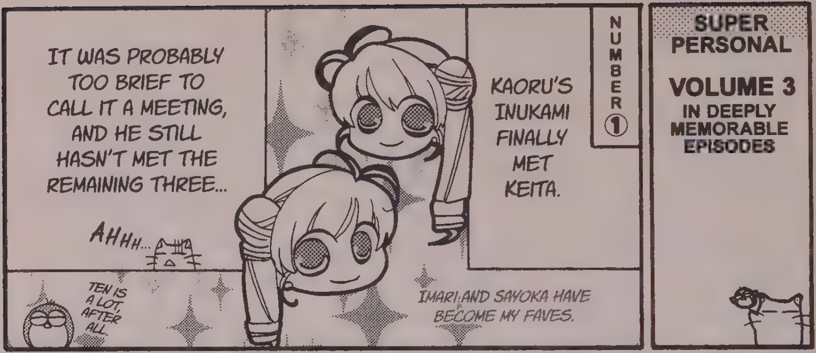

KAORU-SAMA, YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL FROM KARINA-SAMA.
HEE HEE. I'M NEXT, RIGHT?
I'LL GO CHANGE IN THE OTHER ROOM.
THANK YOU, TOMO-HANE.
BEEP
LONG TIME NO SEE...
KARINA-SAN.

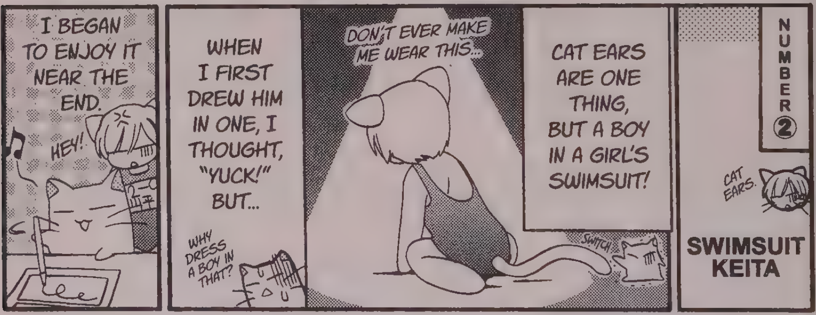

BRUSH
THAT'S RIGHT.
I LEFT IT AT KAWAHIRA KEITA'S HOUSE AGAIN.
HE HAS A PECULIAR POWER TO...
BRUSH
"ATTRACT IRREGULAR SPIRITS," I SUPPOSE.
THANKS TO YOU, I ENDED UP WITH CAT EARS AND A GIRLIE SCHOOL SWIMSUIT.
2—C 川平
MMM...
フル・・
BRUSH
BRUSH
OOH...!
フル・・
COUGH
AHEM.

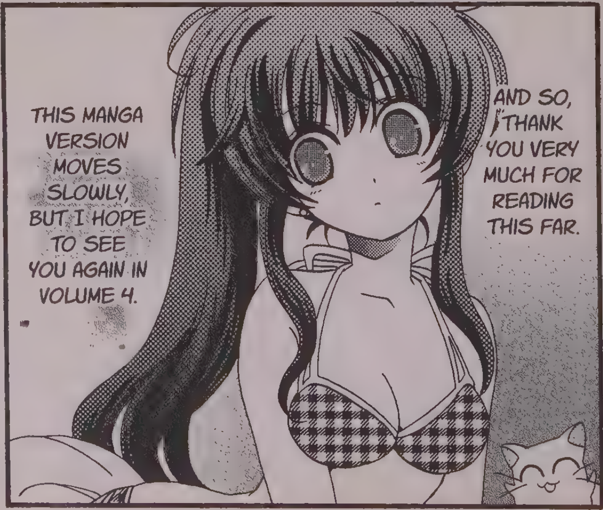

OH, MY APOLOGIES.
I WAS IN THE PROCESS OF...
GROOMING NADESHIKO'S TAIL.
SHE TOLD ME THAT...
ONE OF SEKIDOSAI'S RELICS TURNED UP.


NO, IT IS A GRAVE MATTER FOR MY FAMILY.
WE CANNOT IGNORE IT.
THE LEGENDARY WIZARD...
SEKIDOSAI...
IS MY ANCESTOR.
TO BE CONTINUED


SEKIDOSAI'S RELICS SEEM TO ATTRACT EACH OTHER.
IF WE LEAVE THEM WITH KAWAHIRA KEITA, WHO HAS A VERY STRONG MAGICAL AURA...
WE CAN EXPECT GOOD RESULTS.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU HOPE KEITA CAN HELP US?
IN A WAY, WE ARE USING HIM, THOUGH.
ABOUT SEKIDOSAI...
サラ
PET
YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL GUILTY, KARINA-SAN.


SUPER PERSONAL
VOLUME 3 IN DEEPLY MEMORABLE EPISODES
NUMBER ①
KAORU'S INUKAMI FINALLY MET KEITA.
IMARI AND SAYOKA HAVE BECOME MY FAVES.
IT WAS PROBABLY TOO BRIEF TO CALL IT A MEETING, AND HE STILL HASN'T MET THE REMAINING THREE...
AHHH...
TEN IS A LOT, AFTER ALL.

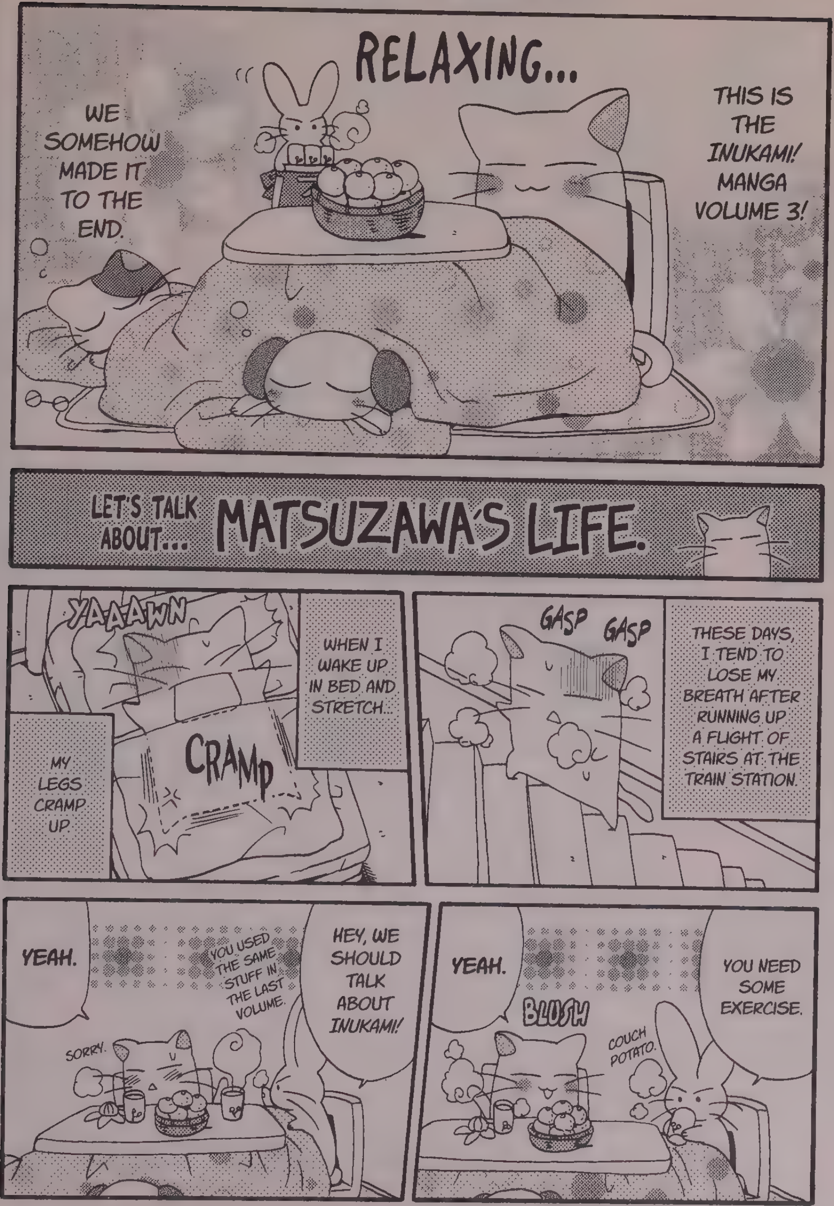

NUMBER ②
SWIMSUIT KEITA
CAT EARS.
CAT EARS ARE ONE THING, BUT A BOY IN A GIRL'S SWIMSUIT!
SWITCH
DON'T EVER MAKE ME WEAR THIS...
WHEN I FIRST DREW HIM IN ONE, I THOUGHT, "YUCK!" BUT...
WHY DRESS A BOY IN THAT?
I BEGAN TO ENJOY IT NEAR THE END.
HEY!


AND SO, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR READING THIS FAR.
THIS MANGA VERSION MOVES SLOWLY, BUT I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN IN VOLUME 4.

Special Thanks

- MAMIZU ARISAWA-SAN
- KANNO WAKATSUKI-SAN
- KISHO FUJIYOSHI-SAN
- UTA ICHIKAWA-SAN
- AKIMASA NANJO-SAN
- ALL THE EDITORS
- MY FAMILY
- AND EVERYONE ELSE I COULDN'T MENTION SPECIFICALLY.

Afterword!


RELAXING...
THIS IS THE INUKAMI! MANGA VOLUME 3!
WE SOMEHOW MADE IT TO THE END.
LET'S TALK ABOUT... MATSUZAWA'S LIFE.
THESE DAYS, I TEND TO LOSE MY BREATH AFTER RUNNING UP A FLIGHT OF STAIRS AT THE TRAIN STATION.
GASP GASP
WHEN I WAKE UP IN BED AND STRETCH...
YAAAWN
CRAMP
MY LEGS CRAMP UP.
YOU NEED SOME EXERCISE.
COUCH POTATO.
BLUSH
YEAH.
HEY, WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT INUKAMI!
YOU USED THE SAME STUFF IN THE LAST VOLUME.
SORRY.
YEAH.

Oniisan – This title literally means "big brother." First and foremost, it is used by younger siblings towards older male siblings. It can be used by itself or attached to a person's name as a suffix (niisan). It is often used by a younger person toward an older person unrelated by blood, but as a sign of respect. Other forms include the informal "oniichan" and the more respectful "oniisama."

Oneesan – This title is the opposite of "oniisan" and means "big sister." Other forms include the informal "oneechan" and the more respectful "oneesama."

TRANSLATION NOTES

Step.11

Doujinshi are fan-made, self-published manga, often with strong sexual themes.

Bozu – Keita misheard "Boys Love" as "bozu," a word that means "young boy" or "Buddhist monk" and can also be slang for someone who shaves his head. Obviously, Boys Love stories usually feature handsome guys with full heads of hair.

Step.12

Sukeban Deka is a well-known anime, manga, and live-action series that starred a punk girl who infiltrated schools on behalf of the police.

Step.13

In Japanese families where Buddhist traditions are observed, it is customary to bury loved ones in a white kimono.

Ojiisan – The Japanese honorific for "Grandfather."

Japanese puns are notoriously hard to translate into a way that makes sense and retains the original comedic tone of the story. In this particular scene, Keita originally says the word *"shitai,"* which Keita uses to mean, "I want to do it," but it also has a double meaning, which is that of "dead body."

HONORIFICS

To ensure that all character relationships appear as they were originally intended, all character names have been kept in their original Japanese name order with family name first and given name second. For copyright reasons, creator names appear in standard English name order.

In addition to preserving the original Japanese name order, Seven Seas is committed to ensuring that honorifics—polite speech that indicates a person's status or relationship towards another individual—are retained within this book. Politeness is an integral facet of Japanese culture and we believe that maintaining honorifics in our translations helps bring out the same character nuances as seen in the original work.

The following are some of the more common honorifics you may come across while reading this and other books:

-san – The most common of all honorifics, it is an all-purpose suffix that can be used in any situation where politeness is expected. Generally seen as the equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs., etc.

-sama – This suffix is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect upon an individual.

-kun – This suffix is commonly used at the end of boys' names to express either familiarity or endearment. It can also be used when addressing someone younger than oneself or of a lower status.

-chan – Another common honorific. This suffix is mainly used to express endearment towards girls, but can also be used when referring to little boys or even pets. Couples are also known to use the term amongst each other to convey a sense of cuteness and intimacy.

Sempai – This title is used towards one's senior or "superior" in a particular group or organization. "Sempai" is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to upperclassmen as "sempai," though it is also commonly said by employees when addressing fellow employees who hold seniority in the workplace.

Sensei – Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

HAYATE CROSS BLADE

SPECIAL PREVIEW

SHIZURU HAYASHIYA

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Step.14

Sekidosai is the name of a legendary master wizard in the Inukami world. When an object, like the bottle in the last chapter, has his imprint, it has special powers. Karina-san has a very personal reason to be interested in him...

In Japanese folklore, a *nekomata* is a demon cat with a forked tail.

Step.15

Kokeko is Kawarazaki's new nickname for the rooster. It comes from the Japanese version of a rooster's call: *"kokekokko!"*

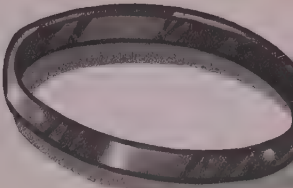
The Taisho period was 1912 to 1926. It's associated with the beginnings of Japanese democracy.

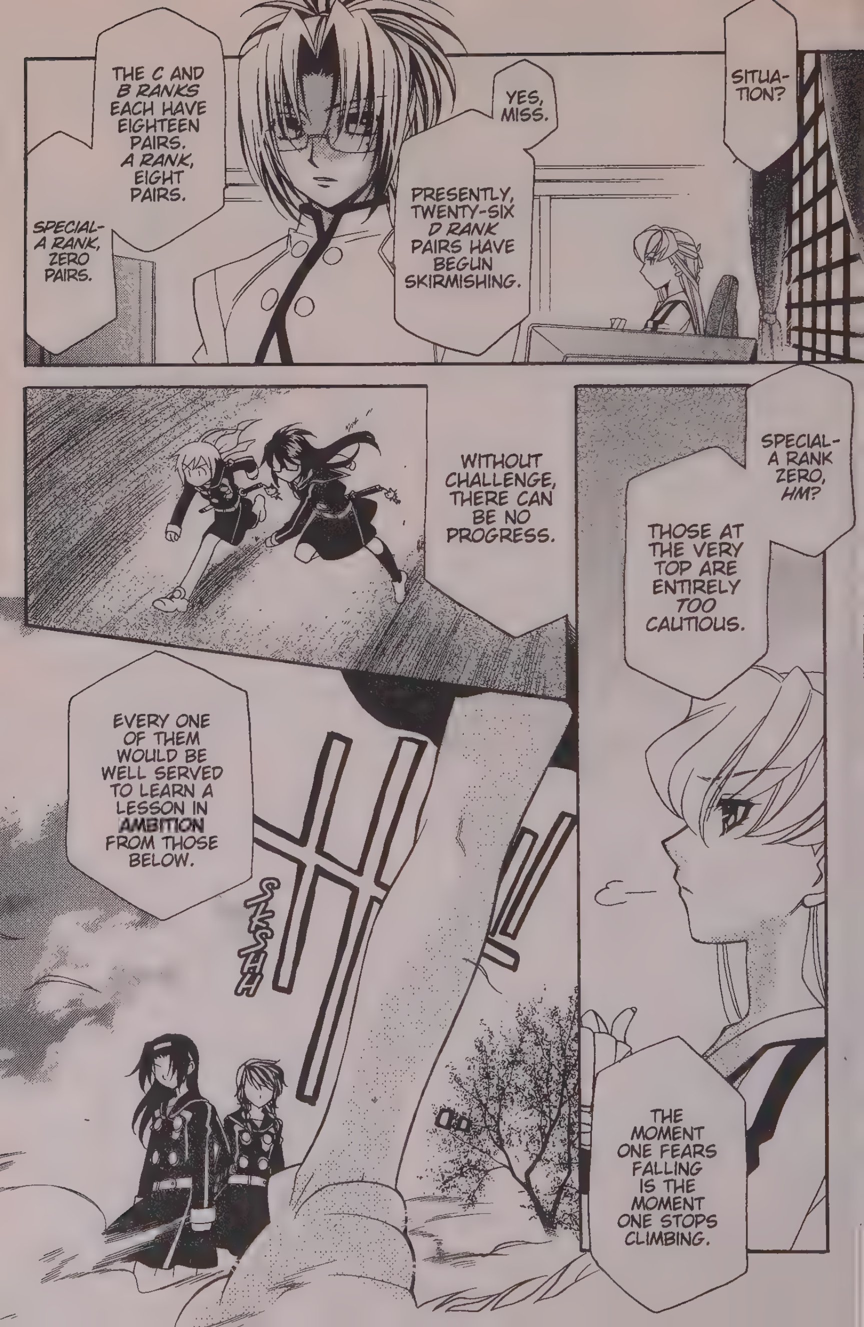
Yakisoba bread is a bun split down the middle and filled with fried noodles and pork.

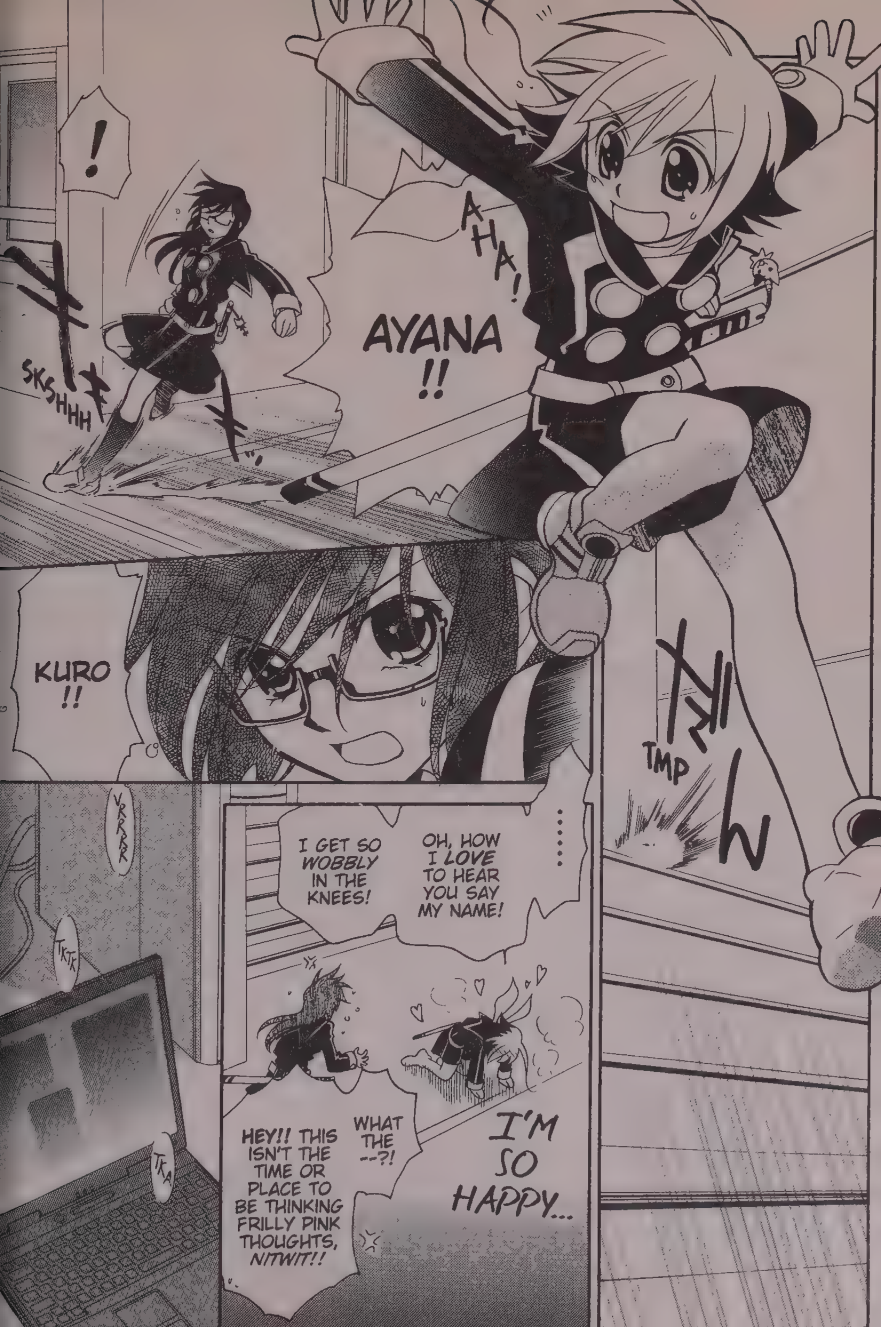
A *gyotaku* is a print made by using a painted fish as a stamp. *O-taku* literally means tail print, but an actual otaku print might require Yoko to let him press his painted body against her...

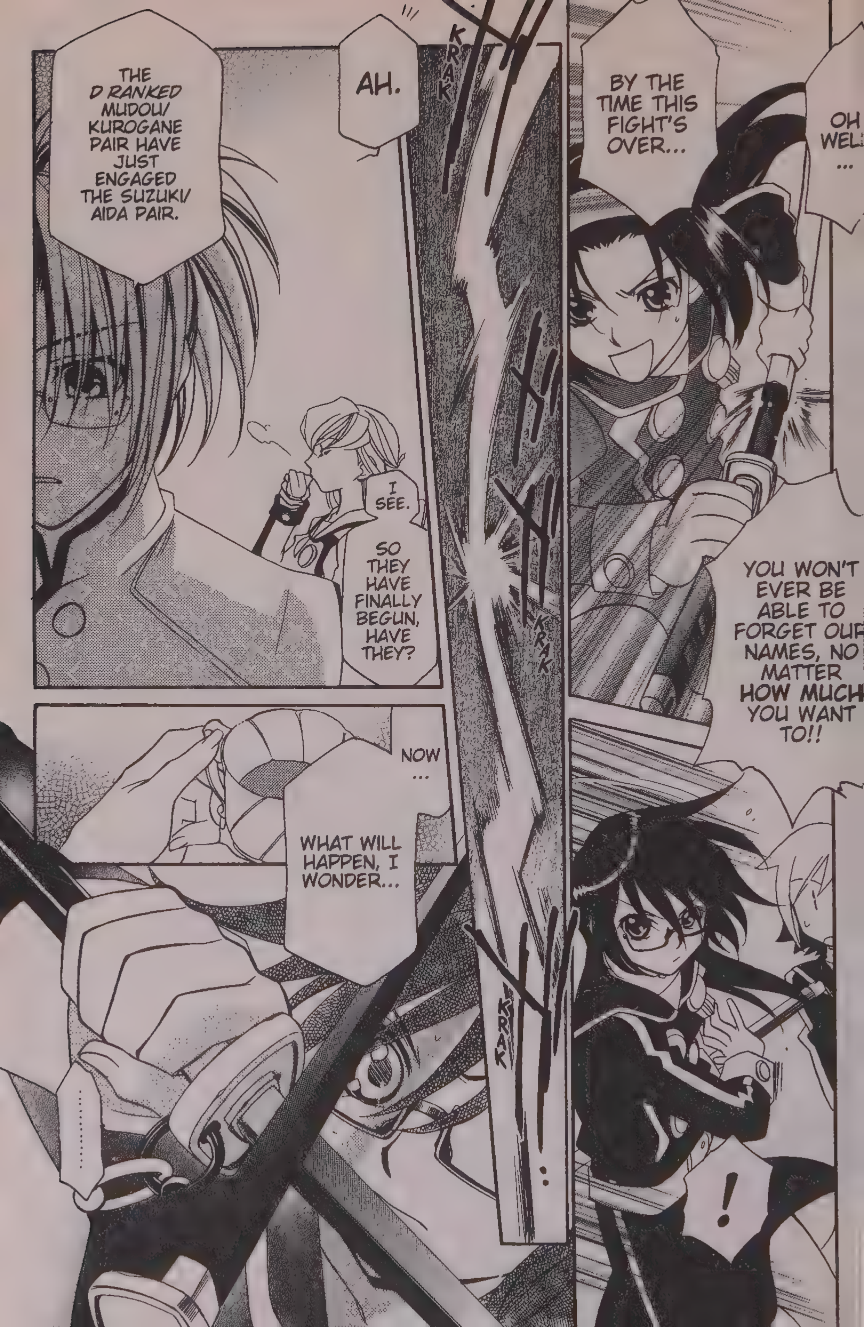
CHARACTER NAME

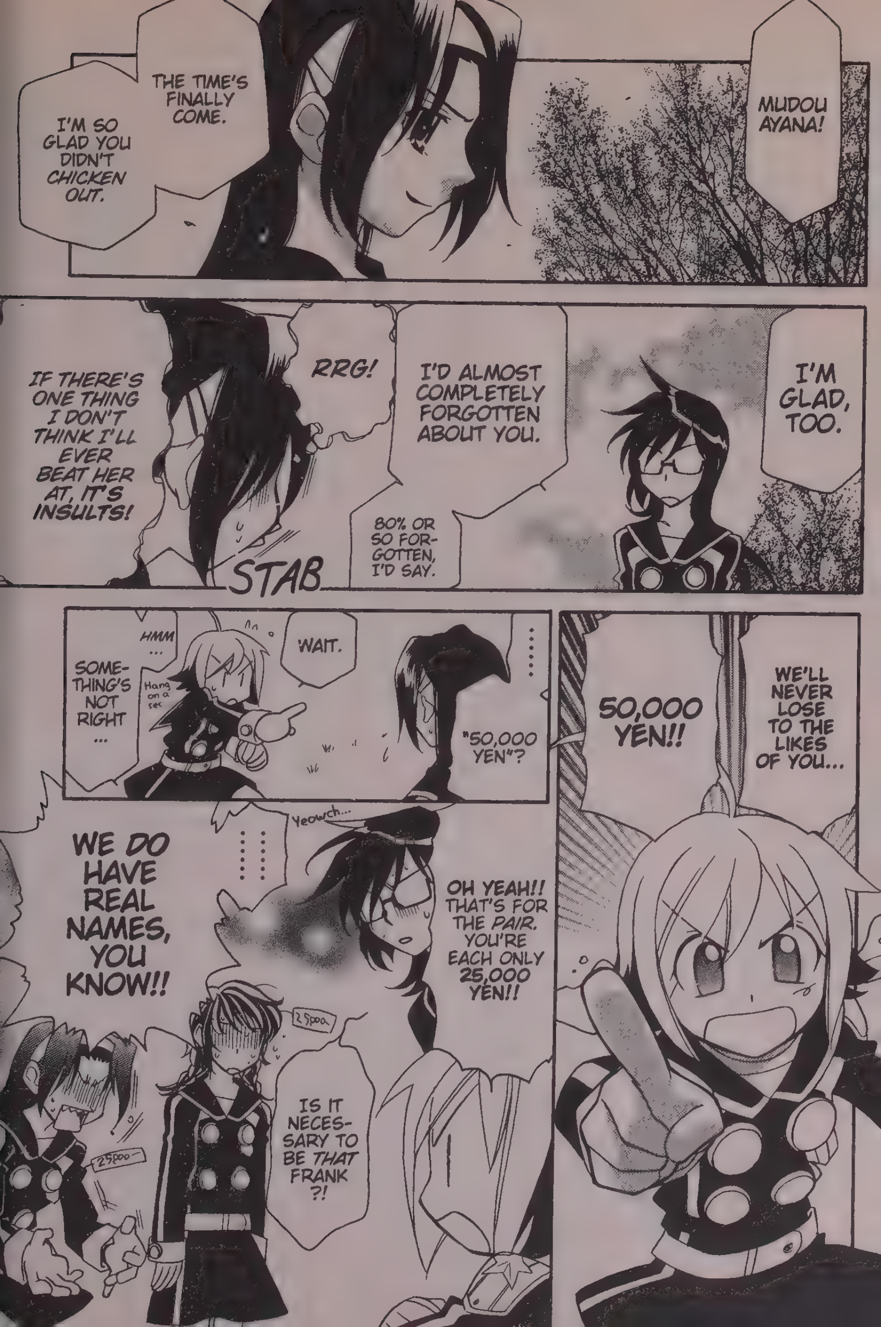
The name "Nadeshiko" comes from the famous Japanese phrase *"yamato nadeshiko,"* which refers to the "perfect Japanese woman." The American equivalent would be the phrase "all-American girl." Both phrases refer to a woman with qualities that are viewed as traditionally desirable by society.

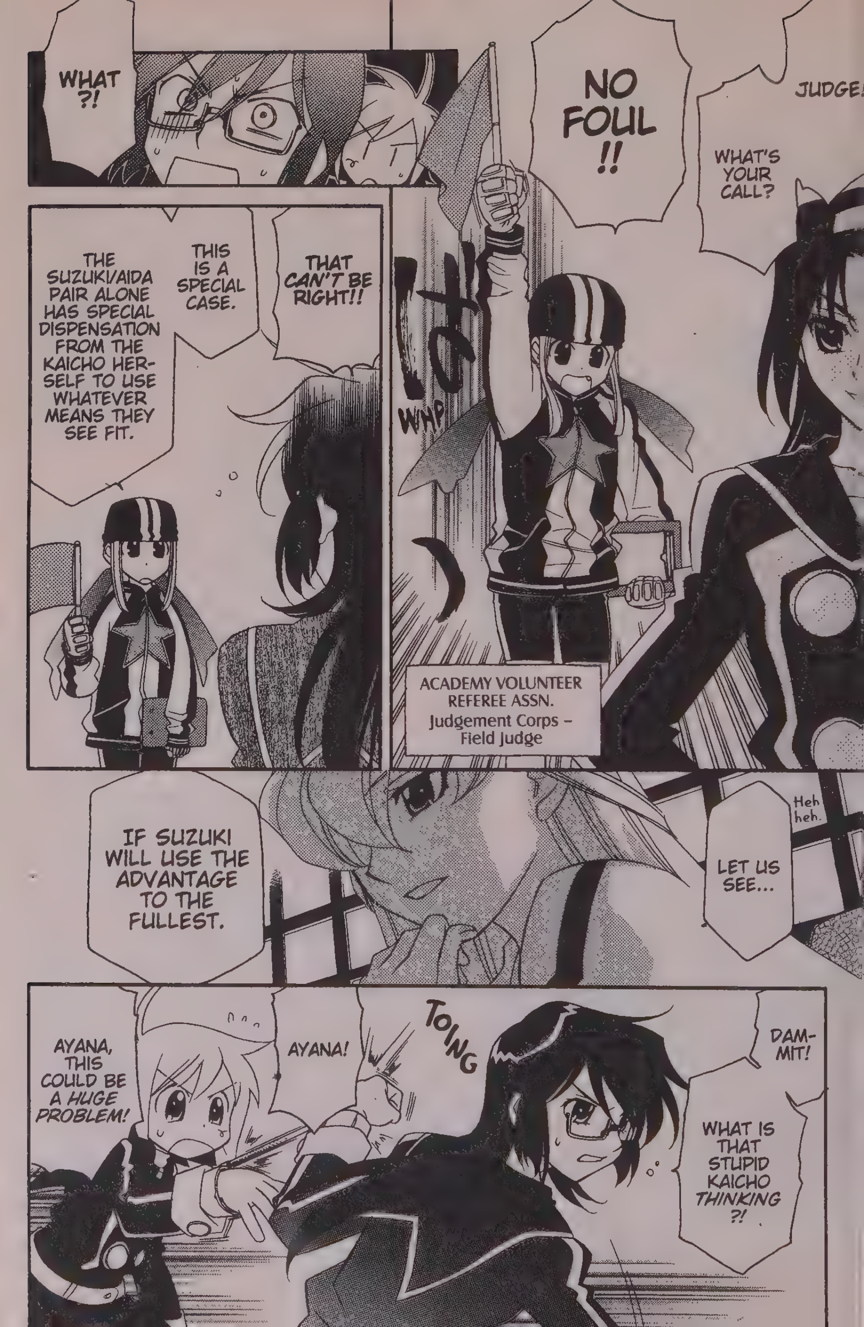


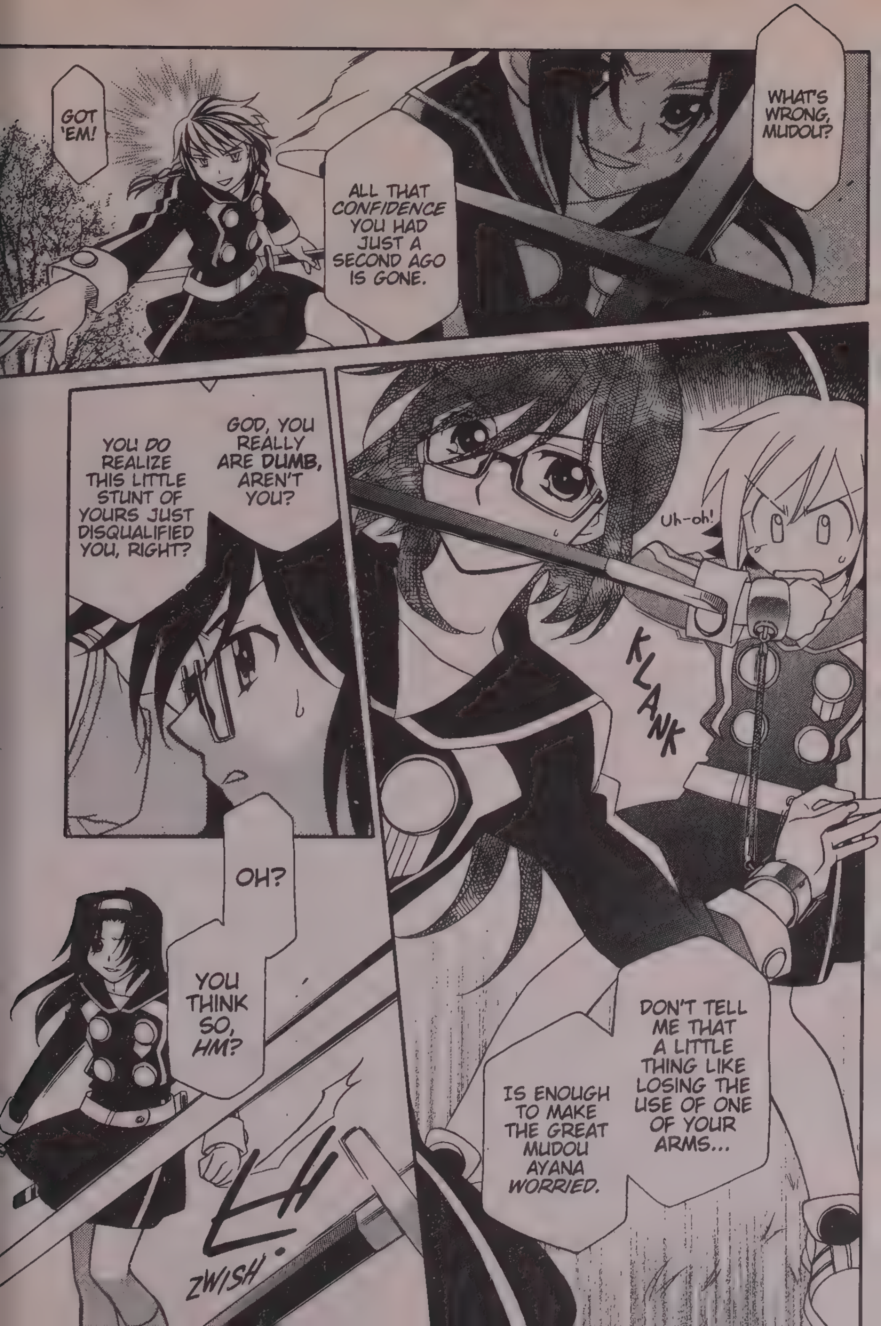

SITUATION?
YES, MISS.
PRESENTLY, TWENTY-SIX D RANK PAIRS HAVE BEGUN SKIRMISHING.
THE C AND B RANKS EACH HAVE EIGHTEEN PAIRS. A RANK, EIGHT PAIRS.
SPECIAL-A RANK, ZERO PAIRS.
SPECIAL-A RANK ZERO, HM?
THOSE AT THE VERY TOP ARE ENTIRELY TOO CAUTIOUS.
WITHOUT CHALLENGE, THERE CAN BE NO PROGRESS.
EVERY ONE OF THEM WOULD BE WELL SERVED TO LEARN A LESSON IN AMBITION FROM THOSE BELOW.
SHASHH
THE MOMENT ONE FEARS FALLING IS THE MOMENT ONE STOPS CLIMBING.

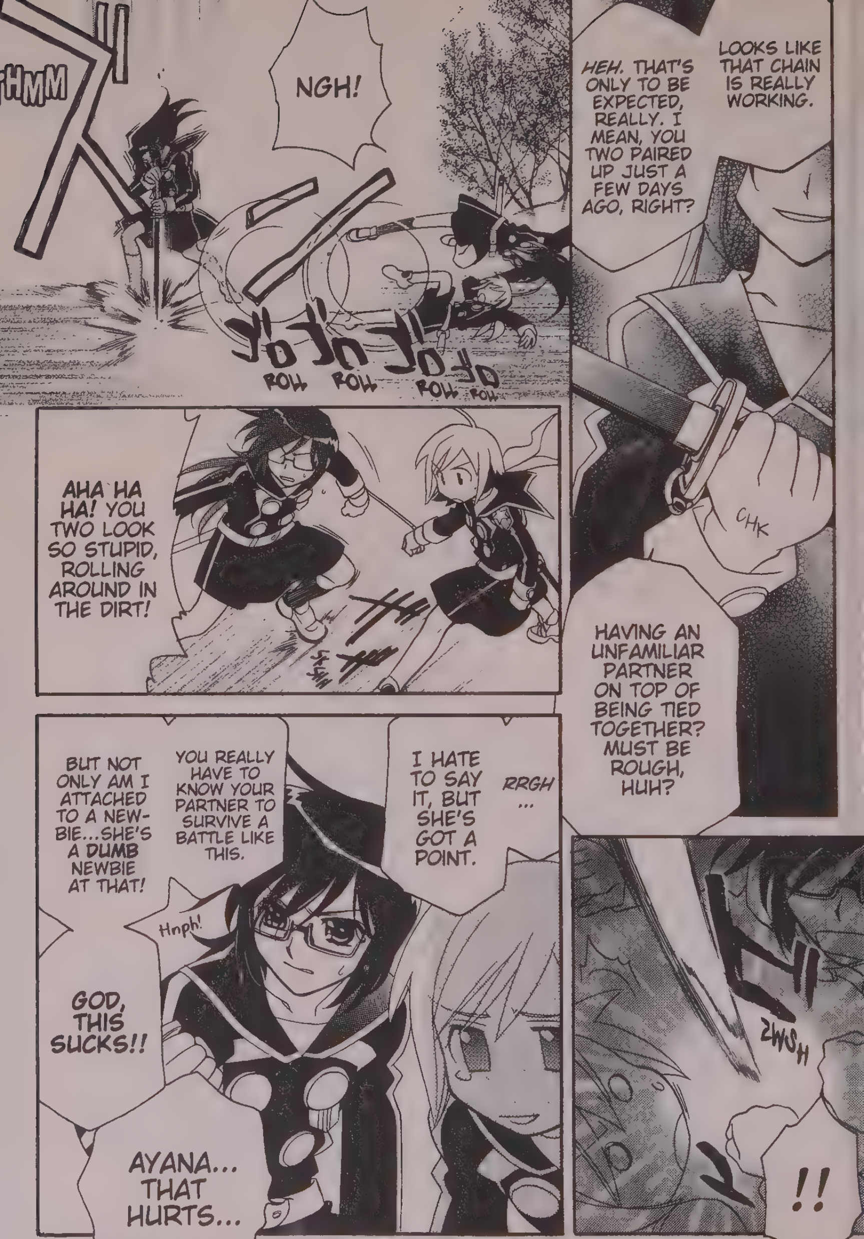

AHA!
AYANA !!
!
SKSHHH
KURO !!
TMP
......
OH, HOW I *LOVE* TO HEAR YOU SAY MY NAME!
I GET SO *WOBBLY* IN THE KNEES!
VRRRRR
I'M SO HAPPY...
WHAT THE --?!
HEY!! THIS ISN'T THE TIME OR PLACE TO BE THINKING FRILLY PINK THOUGHTS, *NITWIT!!*
TKTK
TKA


OH WEL...
BY THE TIME THIS FIGHT'S OVER...
YOU WON'T EVER BE ABLE TO FORGET OUR NAMES, NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO!!
!
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
AH.
THE D RANKED MUDOU/KUROGANE PAIR HAVE JUST ENGAGED THE SUZUKI/AIDA PAIR.
I SEE.
SO THEY HAVE FINALLY BEGUN, HAVE THEY?
NOW...
WHAT WILL HAPPEN, I WONDER...
......

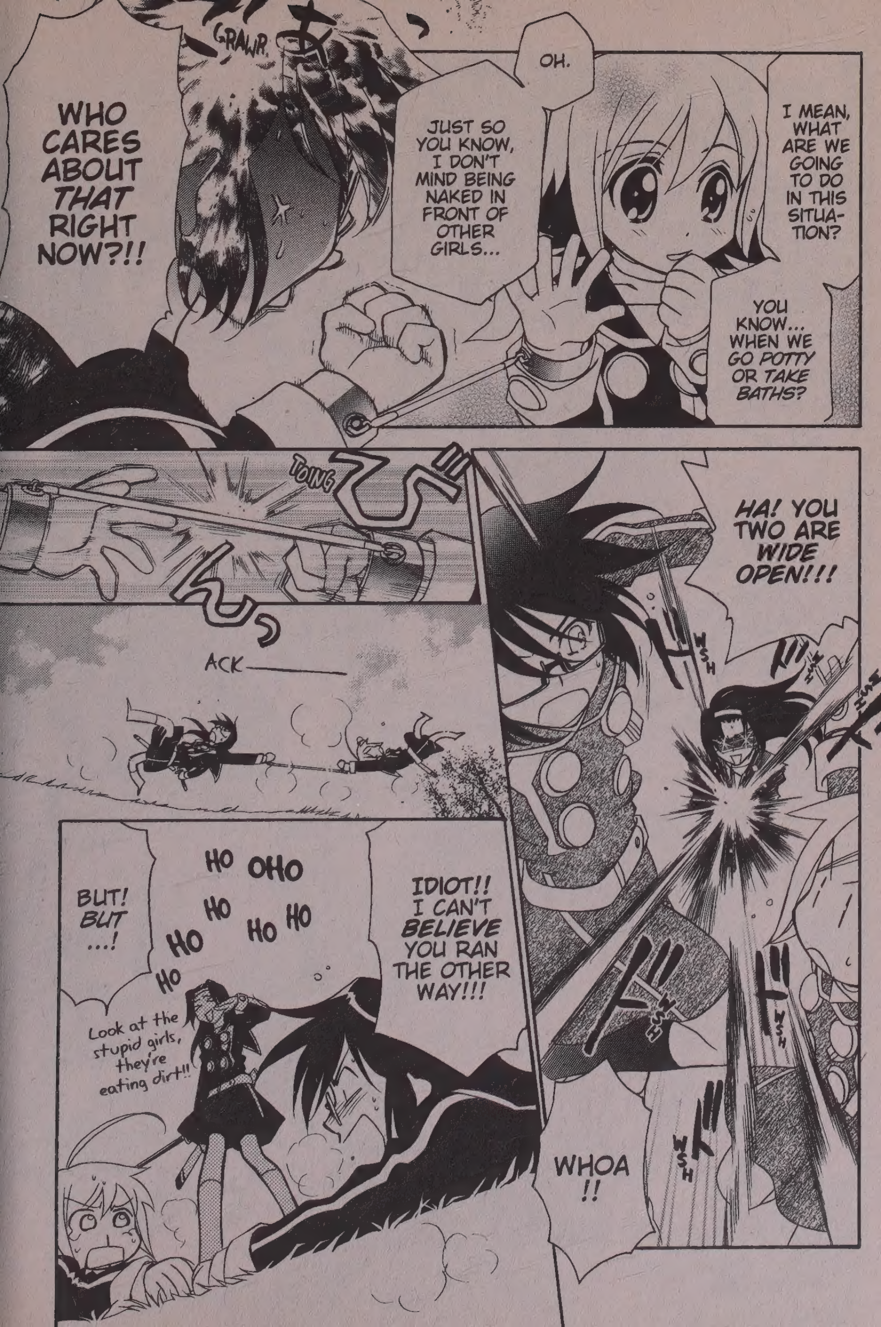

MUDOU AYANA!
THE TIME'S FINALLY COME.
I'M SO GLAD YOU DIDN'T CHICKEN OUT.
I'M GLAD, TOO.
I'D ALMOST COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU.
80% OR SO FORGOTTEN, I'D SAY.
RRG!
STAB
IF THERE'S ONE THING I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER BEAT HER AT, IT'S INSULTS!
WE'LL NEVER LOSE TO THE LIKES OF YOU...
50,000 YEN!!
......
"50,000 YEN"?
WAIT.
HMM...
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT...
Hang on a sec
Yeowch...
OH YEAH!! THAT'S FOR THE *PAIR*. YOU'RE EACH ONLY 25,000 YEN!!
......
WE DO HAVE REAL NAMES, YOU KNOW!!
25000
25000
IS IT NECESSARY TO BE *THAT* FRANK?!


JUDGE!
WHAT'S YOUR CALL?
NO FOUL!!
WHP
ACADEMY VOLUNTEER REFEREE ASSN. Judgement Corps – Field Judge
WHAT?!
THAT *CAN'T* BE RIGHT!!
THIS IS A SPECIAL CASE.
THE SUZUKI/AIDA PAIR ALONE HAS SPECIAL DISPENSATION FROM THE KAICHO HERSELF TO USE WHATEVER MEANS THEY SEE FIT.
Heh heh.
LET US SEE...
IF SUZUKI WILL USE THE ADVANTAGE TO THE FULLEST.
DAMMIT!
WHAT IS THAT STUPID KAICHO *THINKING*?!
TOING
AYANA!
AYANA, THIS COULD BE A *HUGE PROBLEM!*


WHAT'S WRONG, MUDOU?
ALL THAT *CONFIDENCE* YOU HAD JUST A SECOND AGO IS GONE.
GOT 'EM!
Uh-oh!
KLANK
DON'T TELL ME THAT A LITTLE THING LIKE LOSING THE USE OF ONE OF YOUR ARMS...
IS ENOUGH TO MAKE THE GREAT MUDOU AYANA *WORRIED.*
GOD, YOU REALLY ARE **DUMB**, AREN'T YOU?
YOU *DO* REALIZE THIS LITTLE STUNT OF YOURS JUST DISQUALIFIED YOU, RIGHT?
OH?
YOU THINK SO, *HM?*
ZWISH


LOOKS LIKE THAT CHAIN IS REALLY WORKING.
HEH. THAT'S ONLY TO BE EXPECTED, REALLY. I MEAN, YOU TWO PAIRED UP JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, RIGHT?
HMM
NGH!
ROLL ROLL ROLL ROLL
CHK
HAVING AN UNFAMILIAR PARTNER ON TOP OF BEING TIED TOGETHER? MUST BE ROUGH, HUH?
AHA HA HA! YOU TWO LOOK SO STUPID, ROLLING AROUND IN THE DIRT!
RRGH...
I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT SHE'S GOT A POINT.
YOU REALLY HAVE TO KNOW YOUR PARTNER TO SURVIVE A BATTLE LIKE THIS.
BUT NOT ONLY AM I ATTACHED TO A NEWBIE...SHE'S A DUMB NEWBIE AT THAT!
Hnph!
GOD, THIS SUCKS!!
AYANA... THAT HURTS...
ZWSH
!!

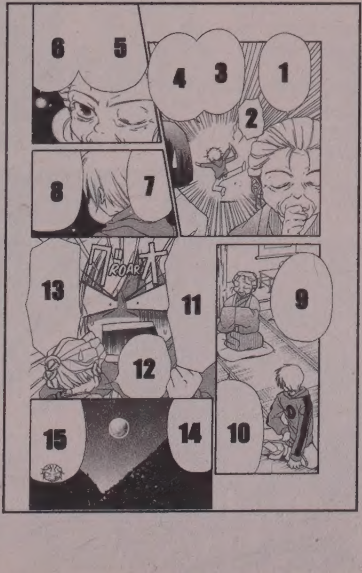
CONTINUED IN *HAYATE X BLADE* OMNIBUS 1


I MEAN, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO IN THIS SITUATION?
YOU KNOW... WHEN WE GO *POTTY* OR *TAKE BATHS?*
OH.
JUST SO YOU KNOW, I DON'T MIND BEING NAKED IN FRONT OF OTHER GIRLS...
GRAWR
WHO CARES ABOUT *THAT* RIGHT NOW?!!
HA! YOU TWO ARE WIDE OPEN!!!
WSH
WSH
WSH
WSH
WHOA !!
TOING
ACK
IDIOT!! I CAN'T *BELIEVE* YOU RAN THE OTHER WAY!!!
HO OHO HO HO HO HO HO
BUT! *BUT* ...!
Look at the stupid girls, they're eating dirt!!

THE END

YOU'RE READING THE WRONG WAY

This is the last page of
Inukami!
Omnibus Collection 1



This book reads from right to left, Japanese style. To read from the beginning, flip the book over to the other side, start with the top right panel, and take it from there.

If this is your first time reading manga, just follow the diagram. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get used to it! Have fun!

Tame me, if you can!

Inukami: a mystical being with a doglike appearance that forges a contract with a powerful human tamer to destroy monsters and demons that prey on the innocent.

Teenage slacker Kawahira Keita is the descendent of a long line of Inukami tamers, but he seems to lack the necessary skills and has been forsaken by his family. Everything changes when he meets a beautiful Inukami named Yoko, who, at first glance, looks graceful and obedient...but Keita soon discovers she is feisty and out of control. Can Keita prove his worth and tame her, or will this wild inukami prove too much for the frisky teen to handle?

"Inukami! is consistently lighthearted and appealing."

—ANIME NEWS NETWORK

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